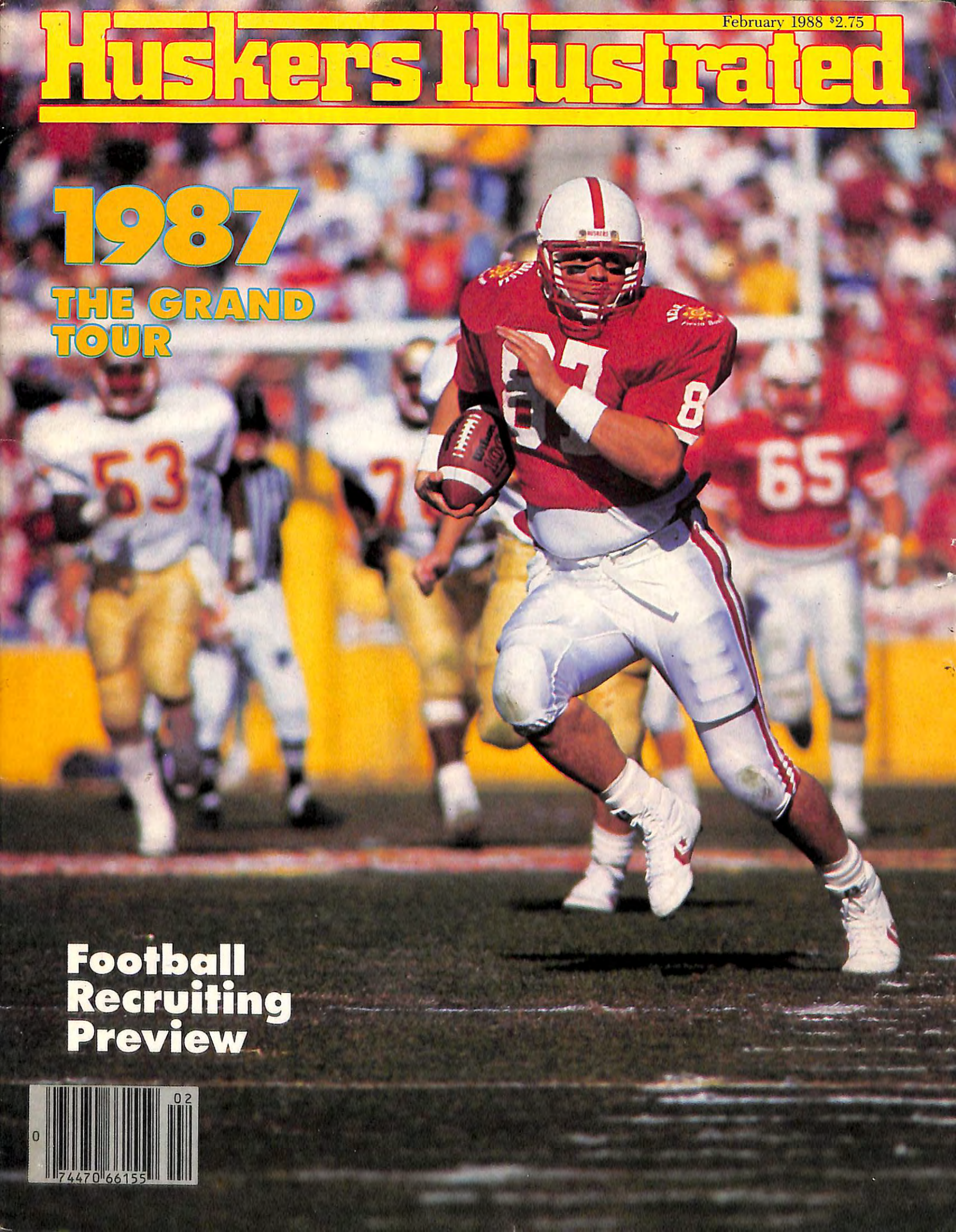


Huskers Illustrated

February 1988 \$2.75

1987

THE GRAND TOUR



Football Recruiting Preview



We Know The Way To Help You Make Your Mark.



The next generation will reach even higher than the last. So we're reaching with them. Our goal is exceptional service. Service without equal. And we'll come through with flying colors.

Because Norwest people have the expertise, the vision, the dedication that the job requires.

We're going to help you make your mark. Because we're the bank that knows the way.

We Know The Way. We Are Norwest.



NORWEST BANKS

Westroads



...so much more

Visit the largest regional shopping center
in a four-state area. Approximately 1.2
million square feet of enclosed retail
shopping area with . . .

OVER 160 STORES OPEN DAILY 10 - 9, SUNDAY 11 - 5:30

**WESTROADS
SHOPPING CENTER**

102nd & West Dodge Road • Omaha, NE. • (402)397-2398

You could look for better insurance, but you'd just be spinning your wheels. Dairyland Motorcycle Insurance offers good rates, good service, and a way to spread out premium payments. There's even a way to get a full year's protection for less than a full year's premium. So talk to one of our 40,000 Independent Agents. And stop spinning your wheels.

**Dairyland[®]
Insurance**



**Motorcycle Insurance.
Good rates for good riders.**

In Texas, available through Dairyland County Mutual Insurance Company.

Huskers Illustrated

February, 1988 VOL. 8, NO. 2

Executive Board of Advisors

Donald R. Peterson, FirstTier, Omaha
 Stan Maly, FirstTier, Lincoln
 John Cochran, Norwest Banks, Omaha
 John Z. Segal, Great Plains Packaging Co., Hastings
 Lee H. Sapp, Lee Sapp Enterprises, Omaha
 Lee A. Sapp, Lee's Ford-Mercury, Ashland
 Tom Cullinane, Southwest Tire, Omaha
 Rick Heuert, Mid-Continent Bottlers, Omaha
 Mike Strohm, Mid-Continent Bottlers, Omaha
 Tim Schmaad, AKSARBE, Omaha
 Mike McCaleb, Guarantee Mutual Life, Omaha
 E. A. Conley, Guarantee Mutual Life, Omaha
 Jerry Gabelman, Dairyland Insurance, Lincoln
 Art Thompson, Lincoln Telephone, Lincoln
 Hal Joyner, Lincoln Tour & Travel, Lincoln
 Don Dinkelman, Lincoln Tour & Travel, Lincoln
 Bill Carley, Lincoln Tour & Travel, Lincoln
 Susan Stoeher, N Street Drive-In, Lincoln
 Cecil Metzger, Norden Labs, Lincoln
 Jim Rasmussen, New York Life, Lincoln
 Mel Adema, New York Life, Lincoln
 Kurt Kollmorgen, New York Life, Lincoln
 Jerry Roberts, New York Life, Omaha
 Don Spinar, Security Mutual Life, Lincoln
 Lee Schmidman, Landons, Lincoln-Omaha
 Larry Snyder, Snyder Industries, Lincoln
 Allan Caplan, Applause Video, Omaha
 Nebraska Touchdown Club
 Occidental Nebraska, Omaha
 J. Richard Spellman, Cliffs Notes, Inc., Lincoln
 Al Gilmore, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska, Omaha
 Nick Vuko, Walker Tire, Lincoln
 Jerry Carlo, Alpo Petfoods, Inc., Allentown, Pa.
 Ren Smith, Reynold S. Smith, Marketing, Inc., Omaha
 Dan Finken, Norwest Banks, Omaha
 William Horner, Instant Replay, Omaha
 Thomas Wilkinson, Mass Mutual Life, Omaha
 Jack Campbell, Mass Mutual Life, Lincoln
 Stan Payne, U.S. Postal Service, Omaha
 Kathy McMichael, Husker Heaven, Omaha
 Chris Mathews, CPS Wholesale Floor Covering, Omaha
 Kelly J. Wills, Exhaust Pros, Omaha
 Bonnie Mowbray, Clayton House, Lincoln
 Paul Fisher, Mark V. Ltd., Omaha
 Jim Foley, Mark V. Ltd., Omaha
 Karen Shockey, Air Midwest Inc., Wichita, Kan.
 Jerry Sims, York Manufacturing, York, Neb.

Staff

Publisher: Mike Henry
Associate Publisher: Charles Brackin
Managing Editor: Wayne Bishop
Feature Writer: Mark Owens
 Kevin Henry
 Tim Stephens
Art Director: Melania Carpenter Ross
Production: Dana Hervey
Administrative Asst.: Catherine Wheeler
Circulation: Mel Johnson
Public Relations Dir.: Larry McWain
Marketing Director: Omaha
Contributing Writers: Mike Babcock
 Lincoln Journal & Star
Photographers: John Bills
 Lincoln
 Kent Morgan Olsen
 Lincoln



10



18



23

Features

1987 In Review	10
Huskers rode a football roller coaster.	
Fiesta Fireworks	18
Nebraska's rally fell inches short.	
Academia	26
These all-stars are smart.	
Pro Draft	28
Nebraska has a couple of sure hits.	
Recruiting	34
On the road again.	
Eric Johnson	40
Still reaching for the brass ring.	

Departments

Letters	6
Player of the Game	17
Play of the Game	24
Confidentially	32
Ask Tom	46

On The Cover

Senior tight end Tom Banderas started Nebraska's second half rally in the Fiesta Bowl with this 48-yard reception. Photo by John Bills.

In The Next Issue

An in-depth recap of recruiting and the latest on Husker basketball.

Huskers Illustrated...

(ISSN 0279-3474) is published weekly during football season and monthly the rest of the year except no issue in May and a combined issue for June/July, plus occasional special issues by Sports Magazines of America, Inc., 7633 East 63rd Place, Suite 420, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133. Second class postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional entry offices.

Subscriptions: In the U.S.A. — \$35.95; outside the U.S.A. — \$45.95 per year. Nebraska residents add 4% sales tax. For subscription information, write **Huskers Illustrated**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Permission to reprint material contained in this magazine must be obtained in writing from the publisher.

Telephone number for editorial and advertising offices is (918) 250-6799. Lithoed in U.S.A. Back issues may be obtained when available at \$4.00 each. When ordering, include volume and number of issue(s) desired.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to **Huskers Illustrated**, Circulation Office, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Snyder Tanks. High, Wide and Then Some.

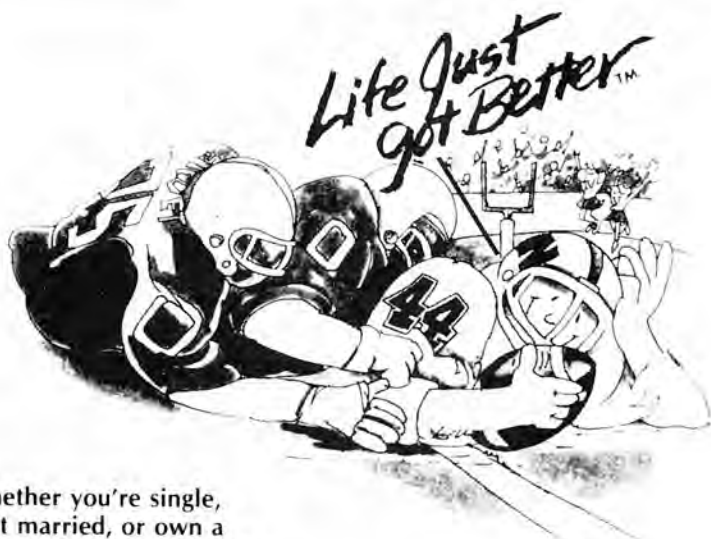
High quality. That comes from experience. We've built more rotationally-molded polyethylene tanks than anyone else, so we know how to get the best results from the best materials.

Wide selection. We build a broader line of ag tanks than anyone else — all the way up to 22,000 gallons. That's the world's largest rotationally-molded vessel.

Then some? That's the best part. We build our tanks — and a lot of other things — right here in Nebraska. That's good for all of us.

Sf SNYDER
INDUSTRIES, INC.

P.O. Box 4583
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504
Phone 402-467-5221



Whether you're single,
just married, or own a
growing business, get the
most out of life...
innovative Life Insurance
from Guarantee Mutual Life.
Where Life just got better!

Call your Guarantee Mutual Life
agent today and make your life,
a whole lot better!

**Life just
got BETTER™**
Guarantee Mutual Life
Company

Guarantee Centre, 8801 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114 (402) 390-7300

Letters

WHO'S THE BEST?

Dear Huskers:

I am writing about what I consider a great injustice in the All-Big Eight selections. At tight end, it was a foregone conclusion that Keith Jackson would get the first-team selection.

As a long-time Cornhusker fan, I was happy to see Tom Banderas get the second-team selection. However, in this case, I think Banderas's selection was based on Todd Millikan's ability.

Banderas had eight receptions for only 86 yards and a 10.8-yard average, while Millikan had 13 receptions for 287 yards and a 22.1-yard average. Also, if one looked at the grading charts for blocking, Millikan was equal to or better than Banderas. His only claim to fame is that he caught six short dump passes this year for touchdowns.

However, Millikan has given Nebraska something it has not had for years: a tight end who is strong enough to block and fast enough to go deep. Banderas's five-year total equals only 16 catches for 172 yards while Millikan's two-year total as a converted tight end is 24 catches for 517 yards.

One can only speculate what kind of stats Millikan would have if he had played as much as Keith Jackson. I hope the media and Nebraska's sports information office publicize Todd for all-star honors next year. I think Todd is as good as or better than Junior Miller, Nebraska's last All-American at that position. I know there is some hometown prejudice in this, but the statistics speak for themselves.

Every year in the All-Big Eight selections, there is one player who should make the team but doesn't. This year, that player was Todd Millikan.

James Morgans
Shenandoah, Iowa

James: There's little doubt that Nebraska had the two most accomplished tight ends in the Big Eight. Their combined stats (21 receptions, 18.7 average and nine TDs) were significantly better than Jackson's. However, because of Jackson's vast

reputation both Millikan and Banderas were overshadowed. More significantly though, one would hope players at Nebraska are more concerned about team success than individual honors, even though all-star teams and rankings are a fun part of college football.

Also, current Lincoln resident Miller had 4.6 speed, was a first-round draft choice and made the Pro Bowl twice with Atlanta of the NFL. Here's to Todd Millikan — may he be as good or better.

Dear Huskers:

I enjoy your magazine very much. You do a very professional job. I have been a Cornhusker fan for over 15 years, ever since Nebraska beat Oklahoma in the "Game of the Century." In fact, I'm probably the only Husker fan in Virginia (everybody here follows the slow and boring ACC). Over the years, I have compiled an all-time Nebraska team of what I think is the best player at each position. Here is my team (their last year in parenthesis). What do you think?

Offense: SE Rod Smith (1987), T Scott Raridon (83), G Dean Steinkuhler (83), C Dave Rimington (82), G John McCormick (87), T Mark Behning (84), TE Junior Miller (79), QB Turner Gill (83), FB Tom Rathman (85), IB Mike Rozier (83), WB Irving Fryar (83), K Dale Klein (86).

Defense: DE Broderick Thomas (88), T Neil Smith (87), NG Danny Noonan (86), T John Dutton (73), DE Willie Harper (72), LB Mark Munford (86), LB LeRoy Etienne (88), DB Russell Gary (80), DB Bret Clark (84), DB Brian Washington (1987), DB Allen Lyday (82), P John Kroeker (88).

I'm sure you'll disagree with some of the positions, but I think this team is the best.

Curtis Freed
Lynchburg, Va.

Curtis: You asked for it, so here goes. What happened to WB Johnny Rodgers, NG Rich Glover, OT Daryl White, NG Wayne Meylan and SE Freeman White? All except for White were two-time All-Americans. White made it only once. Also, DT

TOUCHDOWN CLUB of NEBRASKA

Boosting The Huskers For 25 Great Years

Nebraska's Largest Donor Group
Salutes The Cornhuskers
and
Invites Your Membership

Paul Schorr III
Lincoln
President



Dr. Kirk Lewis, M.D.
Omaha
Vice President

Lou Roper
Lincoln
Treasurer

Hugh Hunt
Blair
Secretary



Contact Don Bryant 116 South Stadium, University
of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588 (472-2263) for information.

WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM.

No matter what your game, you can count
on Mass Mutual to support your success.

The Omaha Agency

Thomas L. Wilkinson, General Agent
9110 West Dodge Road
Omaha, Nebraska 68114
(402) 397-8600

The Lincoln Agency

Jack Campbell, CLU, ChFC, General Agent
Suite 880, NBC Center
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 475-1600

MASSMUTUAL

We insure success.

Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and Subsidiaries, Springfield, MA 01111

Larry Jacobson won the Outland in 1971. Plus, there is no mention of All-American defensive backs Wonder Monds (1975) and Dave Butterfield (1976). Thanks for your opinions, though, because it's always fun to agree to disagree.

Dear Huskers:

The article "Battle of the Big Reds" in the Nov. 28 issue focused on an inevitable subject after the Huskers' close-but-no-cigar season. I am among those who have compared the 1983 and '87 teams and the skills of individuals such as quarterbacks Steve Taylor and Turner Gill plus running backs Mike Rozier and Keith Jones.

Regular-season statistics show Jones to be tied with Florida State's Sammie Smith with the highest yards-per-carry average (7.2) among the nation's leading rushers. This compares favorably with Rozier's average during the season he won the Heisman. Could you verify this?

Jones is perhaps the most underrated player on the squad. During the several televised Husker games, there were times when Taylor would hesitate or keep the ball when it should have been pitched on options. I believe this somewhat hampered the offense as a whole and Jones in particular.

I say that Gill was a more effective quarterback. While Taylor may be more gifted in his passing and running, Gill has the edge when it comes to operating the option.

With Jones graduating this year, hopefully Taylor won't feel the need to shoulder the extra burden and instead share it with an outstanding young stable of running backs when he returns as a senior. With this in mind, the prospects of the '88 Huskers laying claim to the "best team" title appear excellent.

Joel Torczon
Bakersfield, Calif.

Joel: Rozier averaged 7.81 yards per carry in 1983, an NCAA record. Two points of agreement: as a college senior Jones has been embarrassingly underrated by the national media, and the '88 Nebraska team should be outstanding.

CLASS ACT

Dear Huskers:

I work for an airline at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Recently I had the opportunity to check in a few Arizona State coaches. Being a native of Nebraska, obviously the ASU-NU game came up in the conversation. It was great to hear the compliments paid the NU coaching staff and the team as a whole.

Then I read recently where Kansas State quarterback Gary Swim paid the Huskers a compliment by saying they showed KSU the respect that Oklahoma never showed them. It's a great feeling to know the rest of the country has so much respect not only for NU's playing ability, but also for the respect they show their opponents no matter where they are in the standings. Big Red, I take my hat off to you along with the rest of the country. You're one class act.

Craig Montgomery
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Huskers:

Man, has Big Red fever swept the nation, or what? Being from Nebraska and having lived in Southern California the past three years, it just amazes me how many people really are crazy for "Big Red Football" out here. You see people with Nebraska T-Shirts, bumper stickers and you name it — it's out here.

What a first-class program Tom Osborne and Company have. And the new "shoot and run" offense is unstoppable with Coach Ron Brown doing an unbelievable job with the receivers. The defense — every time I watch it — it's like a tornado tearing apart a barn. It's that awesome! If I was a high school player that was being heavily recruited, I'd say forget the other schools, and look out, Nebraska, here I come.

Kevin Zuroski
San Diego

SPLITTING UPRIGHTS

Dear Huskers:

We attended the Missouri game and sat in the south end zone. When Chris Drennan kicked the PATs at our end, he kicked the ball to the same man twice. On the

third point after try, he only missed that same man by two seats (in the same row). How's that for accuracy!

I've read and watched on TV and nobody has mentioned this so far. We enjoy your magazine. Mr. and Mrs. George Loth
Beatrice, Neb.

OKLAHOMA REVISITED

Dear Huskers:

So the Oklahoma syndrome is still with us. Who can quarrel with Coach Tom Osborne's record? Any team in the country but Oklahoma would probably jump out of their shoes to have him, but still there is Oklahoma. Is Barry Switzer a better coach? Is the Wishbone better than the I? I doubt that either is correct. So then what?

It is recruiting. Oklahoma seems to recruit players that, on average, rank with Nebraska in strength but, again on average, are a tad quicker and a step faster. All other things being equal, that is all it takes.

I have three suggestions: 1. Concentrate a bit more on recruiting quickness and speed; 2. If that doesn't work, try getting Oklahoma early on the schedule. The old maxim is: "If you're going to lose, lose early." Remember the national championship game between Nebraska and Miami? Miami lost by 20 points early in the season while Nebraska lost by one point in the bowl game; 3. If that doesn't work, go independent and meet Oklahoma in a bowl game for the national championship each year.

Sherman Crites
Raleigh, NC

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Please address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

TRAVEL KIT.



The most helpful, time-saving travel aid you could ask for — our Toll Free Information and Reservation Number. And it's totally self contained. Just one phone call reserves your seat to fly from here to cities all over the U.S.

Fly Eastern Air Midwest Express to Kansas City, touch down a few short steps from your Eastern gate (right on the same concourse), and

make easy connections to any of more than 100 Eastern Airlines cities in 23 countries.

With Eastern Air Midwest Express, you get all the advantages of flying Eastern including one-time check-in and all boarding passes, advance seat selection, discount fares ...plus you'll earn at least 1000 Bonus Points in Eastern's Frequent Traveler Bonus Program.

Next trip, use the kit...with 7 daily flights from **Lincoln** through Kansas City **to New York, Washington D.C., Tulsa and Newark**, or more than 100 other cities.

CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT
OR CALL 1-800-247-4788



EASTERN AIR MIDWEST EXPRESS





Nebraska beat bowl-bound South Carolina which was cause for rejoicing.

Wrong Year for Amnesia

Anyone who blanked out during 1987, missed a wild and wooly year, both on the field and off.

By Mark Owens



Wingback Dana Brinson and Utah State's defense danced to different tunes. With a 57-yard TD punt return and 31 yards rushing, Brinson's was a step faster.

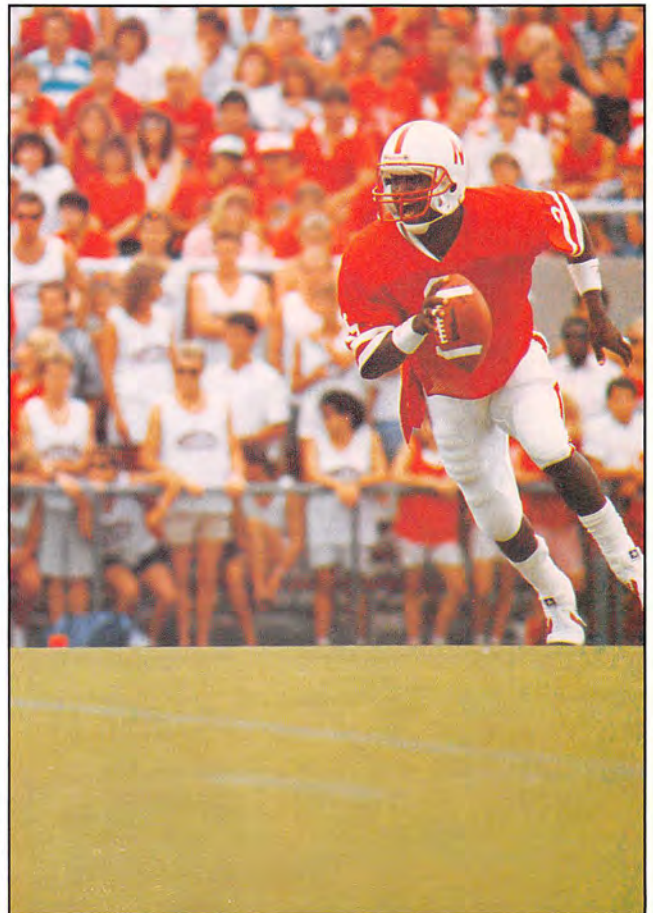
In 1987, Nebraska football in particular and the college sport in general squinted into the glare of national publicity. Some of the ink was nice. Some naughty. And some just plain weird. All told, "Hell Raising Tour '87" and the race for No. 1 was as memorable as any year this decade — definitely worth reviewing.

IN THE HUSKER CAMP... MOST MEMORABLE QUOTES

What better way to start the year-in-review than with quotes. 1987 featured stunning comments from both players and coaches as off-the-field verbage be-



As a junior college transfer, fullback Bryan Carpenter (above) improved throughout the season by leaps and bounds. Rod Smith's TD catch (above, right) helped beat a powerful UCLA team.



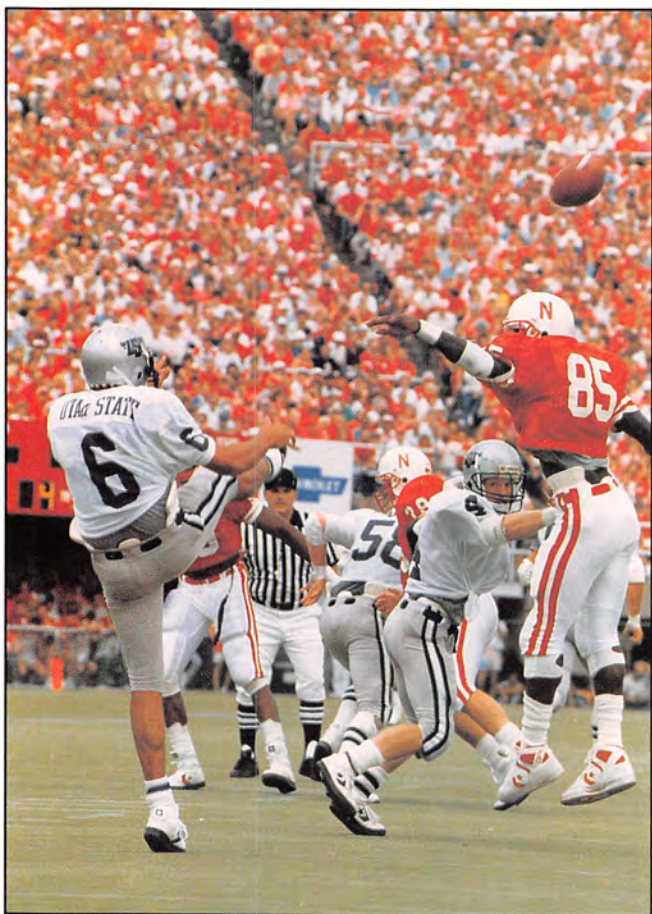
came as noteworthy as on-the-field yardage. Some quotes were prophetic, others pathetic.

"People shouldn't think of me as God when they've already got Jesus Christ in the form of Steve Taylor." — Freshman quarterback recruit Mickey Joseph when asked about his publicized arrival in Lincoln.

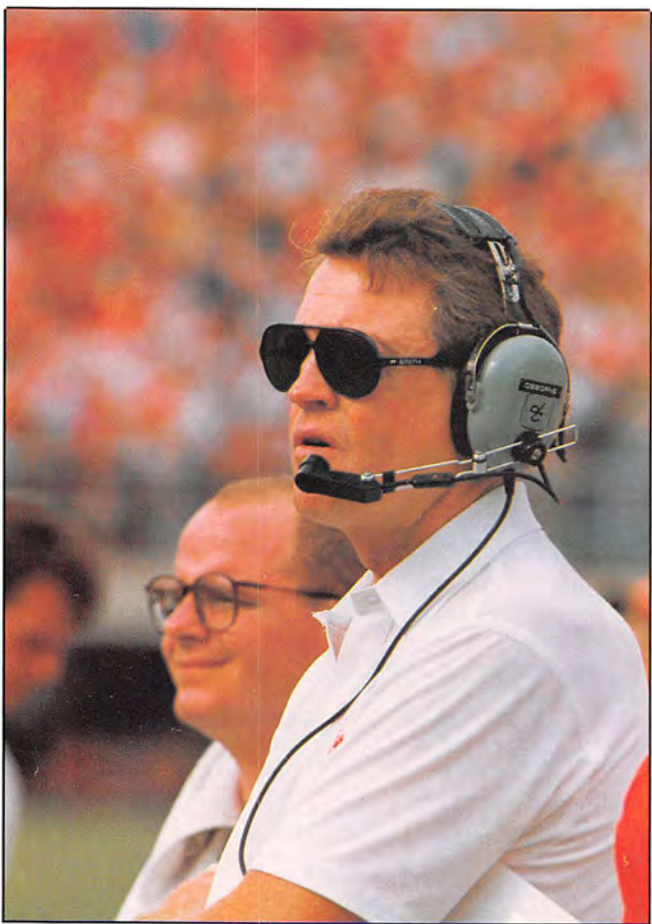
"He's amazing." — Offensive line coach Milt Tinopir discussing true sophomore center Jake Young during spring practice.

"Michael Irvin is nothing but the truth. Maybe Tim Brown had a bad day, but Michael Irvin was better. Definitely

Taylor played a good game, but he became a lonely man when he spoke from the heart.



In his first game as a true freshman, Mike Croel (above, left), blocked a punt, and more frosh contributions would follow. Despite questionable tactics by opposing linemen, Neil Smith (above, 99), rarely choked. When the weather was hot, Osborne (left) looked cool. Some felt the new Herby (below) looked anything but cool.



better." — Strong safety Brian Washington after coaching with both all-star receivers at a high school camp this summer and before Irvin stunned Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

"At this point in his career, Steve Taylor would have to compare favorably with Turner Gill. If he continues to improve, he could end up being the greatest quarterback we've had." Tom Osborne at his weekly press conference after Taylor impaled UCLA with five touchdown passes.

"It will be nice to have the week off." — Tight end Tom Banderas appearing on linebacker coach John Melton's TV show before the Kansas State game, as Melton doubled over and on-air guests broke out in uncontrollable snickers. Despite the televised barb, KSU players later said the Huskers showed them far more on-the-field respect than Oklahoma.

"Barry Switzer outcoached me again — just like he has over the years." A dejected and self-effacing Tom Osborne after the loss to Oklahoma, which he called the most disappointing of his career.

"This team has probably given a better effort week-in and week-out and has better work habits than any team I've had." — Tom Osborne after Nebraska dominated Colorado, 24-7, to finish the regular season with a 10-1 record.

"My pants were too tight." Broderick Thomas after the Utah State game as he explained why he only made a handful of tackles.

And last, but not least, pick any of several comments by Nebraska players following a 42-7 win over Missouri. Predictions of lopsided victories over the Sooners and personal comparisons would cause a stink for months.

MOST IMPROVED OFFENSIVE PLAYERS

Quarterback Steve Taylor significantly improved his running and passing from last season. He went from a 42 percent passer in 1986 to 46 percent this year, and the latter mark would have been much higher if he hadn't completed just 7-23 passes in the last two regular season games. Taylor also improved his yards-per-carry average from 4.1 last year to 5.1 in '87. Going into next season, he should be a solid

Heisman Trophy candidate.

I-back Keith Jones showed remarkable improvement for a senior. He improved not so much from one year to the next, but from one game to the next. In the last month of the season, he averaged almost 200 yards per game. He improved his yards-per-carry average a full two yards (from 5.2 to 7.2) compared to 1986 and lost only 13 yards all season (compared to 59 yards in losses last year).

Fullback Bryan Carpenter, a transfer from Coffeyville (Ks.) Junior College, wallowed at the bottom of the depth chart early in the season, but improved his blocking and understanding of the NU offense enough by year's end to rank as starter Micah Heibel's alternate. His best effort was 90 yards against Missouri.

MOST IMPROVED DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Tackle Tim Rother, without a doubt, is the unchallenged success story on defense. Unknown during preseason drills, Rother went on a behind-the-line ransacking binge against Utah State and UCLA to unseat the ailing Lee

"We've been where you're going."

"You'll be confident in the knowledge that your vacation will run smoothly when you arrange your trip through Lincoln Tour and Travel. That's because we've personally inspected almost every itinerary on every tour to make sure you'll get more than your money's worth. Everything has met our high standards, so you know in advance that they'll meet your high expectations."

"Before you make arrangements with another travel agent, ask if all the details have been thoroughly examined firsthand. You'll see that no one can give you as much travel confidence as Lincoln Tour and Travel. Discover for yourself why we're better. Call Lincoln Tour and Travel today."

First National Bank Building
13th & M Streets (402) 474-4111
In Nebraska: (800) 742-7334

Gateway Bank Building
Gateway Shopping Center (402) 464-5902
In the U.S.: (800) 228-4395

Travel with Confidence.



Jones as starting right tackle. Leading the team in quarterback sacks and tackles behind the line, Rother was named All-Big Eight.

Free safety Tim Jackson transferred with Carpenter from CJC, but was bogged early by the Black Shirt system. He learned it quickly, though, once the season started and was very effective in the last three games (OU, Colorado and Florida State). Jackson had 28 tackles in his last seven games and should use his outstanding speed to challenge starter and Academic All-American Mark Blazek for the No. 1 spot next year.

MEDIA DEBACLE OF THE YEAR

A tie between the flurry of misdemeanor violations by football players and the Gradegate scandal that surrounded summer school class, again by football players. Both news items were highly publicized, and both taxed the patience of Osborne, who did not hide his frustration with the subsequent and constant media attention.

BUYER BEWARE

A couple of football players paid cash to a street peddler for a box that he said contained a VCR. Inside, they found two bricks. Teammates later rubbed it in by drawing a picture on a chalkboard of the two gullible shoppers looking at the bricks and saying, "I wonder if they're VHS or Beta?"

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

Cornerback Tahaun Lewis and defensive end Mike Croel both worked their way up to No. 2 on the depth chart at their respective positions. Reggie Cooper was listed third at strong safety behind two seniors. Those three were the most accomplished of the heralded 1987 freshman class.

COVERBOY OF THE YEAR

Defensive end Broderick Thomas was the easy preseason choice as he was featured in most college football annuals, but split end Rod Smith made a late-season charge by getting his picture several times in *Sports Illustrated* and *Sport Magazine*.

STOCK PURCHASE OF THE YEAR

Any chewing gum manufacturer. Tom Osborne generally didn't do on-the-field interviews unless he had gum in his mouth.

BEST OFFENSIVE SUB

Quarterback Clete Blakeman was error-prone in the first two and last games of the season, but, otherwise, the senior from Norfolk was outstanding off

the bench. He directed a fourth quarter rally against South Carolina and massacred both Kansas schools.

BEST DEFENSIVE SUB

Nose guard Mike Murray. Played well against UCLA and Iowa State and registered more sacks and tackles behind the line than starter Lawrence Pete.

MOST OVERUSED PHRASE BY PLAYERS

"Definitely."

MOST UNDERUSED PHRASE BY PLAYERS

"No comment."

TRAIT OF THE YEAR

For all its speed, intelligence and glamor, the 1987 team is probably best remembered by coaches and staff as

...Sherrill told probing photographers he'd beat their brains in if they took his picture one more time. They did, and he didn't.

one of the hardest practicing and hardest playing squads ever.

MOST DECEIVING STAT OF THE YEAR

The final score of 42-33 against UCLA, indicating the game might have been close. However, it was 42-17 with only seven minutes to play. As far as winning and losing was concerned, the game was a rout.

A close runner-up was the 17-7 loss to Oklahoma in a game that wasn't really close in the second half.

DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE YEAR

Keith Jones was left off the Associated Press All-American team completely. Later, AP Sports Editor Herschel Nissenson would explain the deletion was simply an oversight, adding that Jones was actually being considered for one of the top three units and should have been at least honorable mention.

BEST DEFENSIVE PLAY

The interception by 5-10 right cornerback Charles Fryar while covering Oklahoma State's 6-5 Hart Lee Dykes in the end zone. It stopped OSU's only real offensive threat of the game and was technically perfect. Following that athletic display, opponents rarely threw

in Fryar's area, which put tremendous pressure on left cornerback Lorenzo Hicks.

BEST OFFENSIVE PLAY

Keith Jones ran for 62 yards in the fourth quarter against Arizona State to set up the go-ahead touchdown and break a 28-28 tie.

ON TO THE NATIONAL SCENE... MOST POPULAR TREND

More and more players chose to celebrate their touchdowns with hip-twisting jiggles in the end zone.

LEAST POPULAR TREND

College players confessed in droves that they had signed agreements with agents. Most noteworthy of the punished players (losing their eligibility) was wide receiver Cris Carter of Ohio State, which disintegrated to 6-4-1 in his absence. Texas A & M Coach Jackie Sherrill went so far as to confront one agent on a singleness-of-purpose trip to Atlanta. Already steamed that two of his players had been caught up in the scandal, Sherrill told probing photographers he'd beat their brains in if they took his picture one more time. They did, and he didn't.

MOST ABHORENT MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

A slap on the wrist to ESPN in particular and the national media in general for forgiving transgressions in behavior in light of success on the football field, especially when facts indicate there is no correlation. In particular, Tom Meese of ESPN literally brought one Sports Center broadcast to a halt while championing the cause of Miami football, explaining that fans who only talk about the well-documented troubles of the Hurricanes' program were close-minded. He chose to bring this up after Miami beat Oklahoma for the national title instead of after U of M beat South Carolina in a fight-marred telecast on ESPN.

Oklahoma's reward for losing was a barrage of anti-wishbone ink from the provincial and pass-happy East Coast media.

Should E.T. and his outer space buddies ever receive signals from that ESPN broadcast they might well assume earthlings are polarized between good people and bad people — those who win the national championship and those who don't.

HYPE OF THE YEAR

Tim Brown of Notre Dame was the

LUCK.



**Don't depend on it
when it comes to protecting
your pets and livestock.**

For the most reliable animal care, see your veterinarian. By training and experience, he is best qualified to protect your animals against sickness and disease.

Helping in this important work is Norden Laboratories. From our Lincoln headquarters, we have been supplying the nation's veterinarians with quality biologicals and pharmaceuticals for more than 60 years. Many of our products are veterinarians' number one choice for controlling common animal diseases. Norden's rabies vaccines and canine heartworm tablets, for example, are used by more veterinarians than any competitive products manufactured for the same diseases.

Other Norden products are for use in food-producing animals. 'Scour-Guard 3' and 'Life-Guard' are used extensively in cattle country for controlling neonatal scours, a chief cause of calf mortality. In the swine belt, 'PR-Vac' is recognized as the most effective vaccine for immunizing pigs against pseudorabies, a costly disease of the central nervous and respiratory system.

These and other fine Norden products are available through your veterinarian. Contact him for the game plan best suited to ensuring your animals' health and productivity.



N
NORDEN
LABORATORIES

Lincoln, Nebraska 68501 U.S.A.

dominant figure all season in the Heisman Trophy race. CBS, which broadcast the award ceremony, was especially kind to his campaign.

OVERACHIEVER AWARD

Syracuse, 11-0-1, was the unquestioned underdog and surprised of 1987.

UNDERACHIEVER AWARD

Ohio State (6-4-1), Michigan (7-4) and Arkansas (9-3) were supposed to make runs at the almighty No.1 title, but each sputtered badly.

FAVORITE WHIPPING BOY

The Big Eight Conference took a

media pounding because of its supposed weakness in the middle and lower ranks. This flogging only deminished the success of Nebraska and Oklahoma plus Oklahoma State, which had one of its best seasons in years. In fact, the major conferences across America were fairly equal except for the dominant Southeastern and withering Southwest leagues. When the Big Eight lost two of three bowl games, it didn't help.

UGLY BUT ACCURATE PREDICTION AWARD

In its college football preview issue,

Sports Illustrated gave Tom Osborne and Nebraska its Albatross Around the Neck Award, stating that T.O. was 4-11 against the Sooners and that come Nov. 21 the mark would be 4-12.

YEAR OF THE TIE

Some of the biggest games featuring some of the biggest names either ended in ties or could have. Auburn and Tennessee knotted at 20 apiece. LSU and Ohio State each had 13. Auburn and Syracuse danced to a less-than-satisfying 16-16 embrace in the Sugar Bowl. Michigan State tied bland Illinois at 14. Arizona State and Arizona also deadlocked at 23. Had Florida State kicked the tying PAT instead of going for two against Miami, the Seminoles might have been in the Orange Bowl. Plus, the same could have been said of Notre Dame, which lost by one to Penn State, 21-20, when the two-point try failed. Anti-Big Eight publicity only increased when struggling Kansas and Kansas State battled to a 17-17 tie.

A TOUCH OF CLASS

Kodak All-American John McCormick came to the defense of Oklahoma's Mark Hutson when the two offensive guards were at all-star events surrounding their selection. Even though Hutson's Sooners beat NU in a no-love-lost game in Lincoln, McCormick supported him when Miami's Daniel Stubbs mouthed off. For his effort, McCormick received a shove to the face from Stubbs, also an All-American.

YEAR OF THE RECEIVER

The hot position of 1987 was wide receiver, including such stars as Sterling Sharpe of South Carolina, Wendell Davis of LSU, Tim Brown of Notre Dame, Michael Irvin of Miami, Ernie Jones of Indiana and Marc Zeno of Tulane. All were seniors except Irvin, who should be in a class by himself next year.

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Emmitt Smith of Florida ran for over 1,500 yards this fall and was close to signing with Nebraska last spring.

TOO MUCH TUBE

While Nebraska appeared on national television six times during the regular season, ABC-Sports veteran Keith Jackson said he sees the day soon when college football will return to a one-network package.

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

For the most part, steroids dropped out of the news. ■

ENJOY FREEDOM OF SPEECH FROM LT&T CELLULAR.



LT&T Cellular frees you to leave the office and still conduct business. Frees you to turn travel time into productive time. Frees you to place and receive calls from just about anywhere.

Make every day your Independence Day. Call LT&T Cellular and ask about Freedom of Speech.

476-7266

Lincoln Telephone
CELLULAR



Security Mutual Life is proud to present **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

Nebraska . . . the competitive spirit. Security Mutual Life has been sharing that spirit for over 90 years — providing you with competitive insurance to secure your family's future.

Taylor Continues Bowl Streak

A three-toed sloth could count on one hand the number of botched plays that kept quarterback Steve Taylor from starting the New Year as a Heisman frontrunner instead of a mere Player of the Game for the Cornhuskers.

Taylor ran for 75 yards on a game-high 20 carries and one touchdown, and he also completed seven of 14 passes for 142 yards. And when the San Diego junior led Nebraska's near-perfect second half rally, he almost posted enough credentials to unseat Florida State quarterback Danny McManus as the Fiesta Bowl's all-star. After intermission, Taylor ran for 51 yards and hit seven of 12 passes, with no interceptions for all of his 142 yards.

As mentioned, though, the effort was only near perfect.

A fumble at the FSU three with six minutes to play kept the Cornhuskers from adding to their 28-24 lead, and a hard-luck illegal procedure penalty killed a 55-yard strike to split end Morgan Gregory, who had scooted all the way to the Seminole two-yard line with less than a minute to go when it seemed the Huskers might re-rally from a 31-28 deficit. Without those

Steve Taylor was the key to Nebraska's offense for much of 1987, and 1988 started the same way.

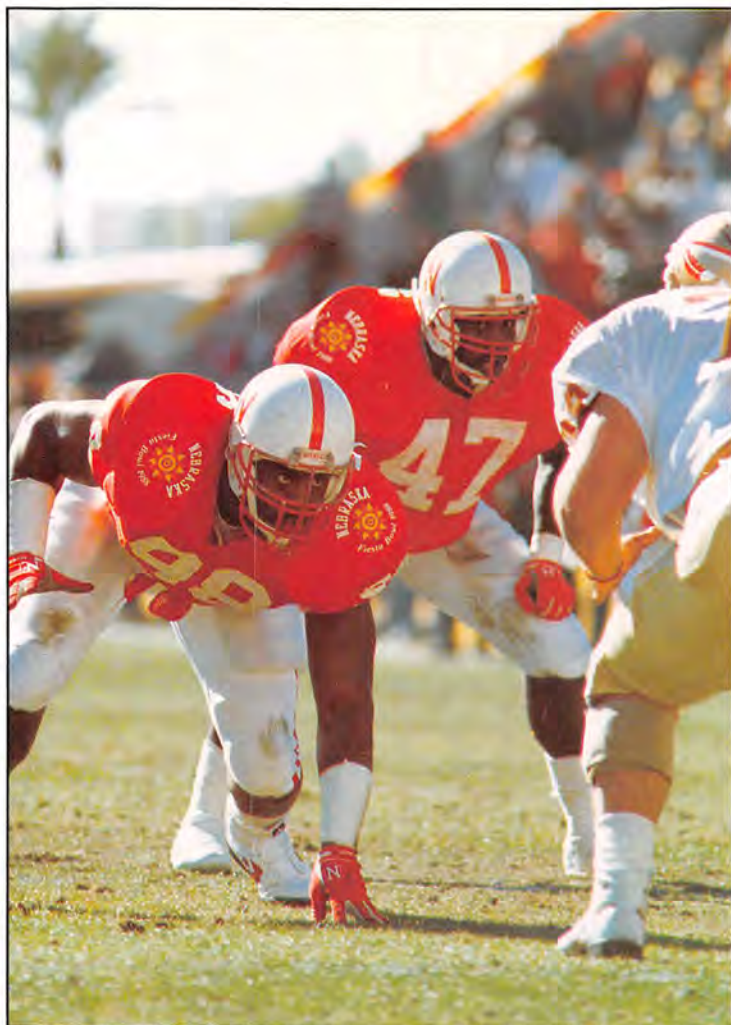


blowups, Taylor and Nebraska might be celebrating infant 1988 near the top of America's mythical polls that gauge individual and team excellence.

Overall, Taylor's bowl pedigree remained untarnished. In three post-season games (1986 Fiesta, '87 Sugar and '88 Fiesta), he has rushed for 214 yards (averaging over 70 yards per game) and three touchdowns. Taylor has passed for 252 yards in the past two years, and he's hit just under 50 percent of his passes in all bowl ap-

pearances.

By choice, Taylor decided to remain incognito before the '88 Fiesta Bowl and generally shunned media attention with the same enthusiasm that he showed while embracing it during the regular season. Take away a small handful of miscues against the Seminoles, and Nebraska in general, and Taylor in particular, would have found it next to impossible to avoid that probing media. It would have been a nice problem to have. ■



Tempe Tempest

Wild until the end, the Fiesta Bowl brought Nebraska's whiz-bang season to a bitter-sweet finale and hopes for a happier new year.

LeRoy Etienne (47) and Lee Jones (98) found that stopping FSU's offense was an eye-opening experience.

By Mark Owens

Yee haw!" The back of the plane sounded like a zoo. "On you Huskie!" "Haw mule!"

The good-natured loonies on Nebraska's football team were simply encouraging the pilot to put the pedal to the metal and make that darned airplane leap into the sky as they left Tempe, Ariz., in the wake of a 31-28 loss to a superbly talented but not necessarily more talented Florida State team.

The Fiesta Bowl marked the end of Hell Raising Tour '87, and the Huskers were ready to launch their assault on 1988 with a joy ride of immense proportions.

"What is that noise?"

"The fuel truck is still hooked onto the wing."

"Oh, yeah! Make this bird soar!" Youthful hoots from the back of the

plane drowned out the growl of jet engines.

There was still plenty of spunk and shake-a-leg in the Cornhuskers as they prepared for their encore to 1987 even though it was a year of disappointment to some. There was this big shadow — losing to Oklahoma — that obscured a couple of old fashion whippings, administered to UCLA and Oklahoma State. When you're rated No. 2 most of the season and don't have a shot at the national title on New Year's Day, it takes something out of you. And when Miami finished undefeated going into its Orange Bowl fight for No. 1 with Oklahoma, the Huskers knew they didn't stand a chance of getting the title.

Disappointment is relative. Television broadcasters noted during Louisiana State's bowl game that the Tigers had just secured the fifth 10-victory season in that school's storied history. Nebraska and Coach Tom Osborne have pulled that trick five times in the 1980s alone. NU followers get comfort-

able with playing well and winning.

Which only meant that the Big Red was slightly uncomfortable at the Fiesta Bowl.

Nebraska played well, lost and tumbled to No. 6 in the polls, generally considered the bowels of the Top 10 ever since Osborne's teams have been winning at an 84 percent clip this decade.

It was luck, really, and not winning percentages that finally decided the 1988 Sunkist Fiesta Bowl.

Let's start with The Fumble. Big, bad bobble that it was, this fourth-quarter turnover probably cost Nebraska the game when FSU recovered at its own three-yard line just as the Huskers were about to do something. Leading 28-24 in the fourth quarter, Big Red appeared certain of scoring six or three points. Anything, and the Seminoles would have been in serious trouble.

Those are the breaks. Maybe Tyreese Knox bumped into Jake Young and that sprung it. Steve Taylor's handoff looked

Florida State 31, Nebraska 28

Florida State.....0 21 3 7 — 31
Nebraska.....14 0 14 0 — 28

NU — Jones 3 run, Drennan kick.

NU — Brinson 52 punt return, Drennan kick.

FSU — Gainer 10 pass from McManus, Schmidt kick.

FSU — D. Williams 4 run, Schmidt kick.

FSU — Gainer 25 pass from McManus, Schmidt kick.

NU — Taylor 2 run, Drennan kick.

FSU — Schmidt 32 field goal.

NU — Knox 4 run, Drennan kick.

FSU — Lewis 15 pass from McManus, Schmidt kick.

Attendance: 72,112

Dana Brinson had two punt returns for TD's this season, one each in the first and last games.



all right, but something was wrong. It didn't matter. Friday, Jan. 1, 1988, was not Nebraska's day to get breaks.

After Florida State drove majestically on its last possession to score and go ahead, Nebraska had one last shot at winning and maybe climbing to No. 2 in the land. Nebraska unveiled Air Tom. Detractors of option football claim that offensive dinosaurs like Oklahoma and Nebraska can't pass in the clutch. Taylor almost made them eat crow, which certainly would have been especially satisfying for him.

He opened with a 10 yarder to Morgan Gregory and a 12 yarder to Todd Millikan. Bang-bang, and Nebraska's out to its 42 with a couple of minutes to ease this jewel into the end zone. Receivers were open. The line neutralized Florida State's rush. It looked like a breeze. What followed was the ultimate in both rapture and wrath. Taylor hit Gregory with a flat pass, and the sophomore split end juiced his gambling defender to race 52 yards to the FSU two-yard line. Pucker up, No. 2,

here we come.

Instead of getting a victory kiss, Nebraska was slapped with another bad break as officials hit the Huskers with The Flag. They spotted an illegal formation, what with tight end Tom Banderas and Gregory lined up on the same side of the field. Technically, Banderas was then considered a tackle, a lineman, because of that formation, and legally he shouldn't have been able to go out for a pass, which he did.

Just great. In the National Basketball Association, they don't call fouls unless the offender actually gains some kind of advantage with his crime. Since Banderas had been hammering Florida State's strong-side linebacker goofy all day, it's likely that FSU would have been eyeballing old No. 87 pretty closely even if he had taken his three-point stance next to the Nebraska cheerleaders. No real advantage there, but a rule is a rule, and it cost Big Red dearly. For only the second time all year, Osborne's resilient team ran out of rallies.

This loss on a bright and sunny day was a milestone in several ways. First, it marked the only time all year that Nebraska's maniacal defensive front was unable to pass rush effectively. NBC broadcasters noted often how FSU offensive tackle Pat Tomberlin was able to hold out All-American Neil Smith. They also noted via instant replay how Tomberlin was able to literally hold Smith without getting a flag. Regardless, quarterback Danny McManus was sacked only once all day (a seven yarder by Broderick Thomas).

It also marked the resurrection of NU's punt return exploits, which had been notoriously mild mannered ever since Rod Smith and Dana Brinson zipped for a pair of touchdowns against Utah State. Brinson ran one in from 52 yards out. Richard Bell returned one 27 yards, and that set up Nebraska's first touchdown of the day.

Those gallops helped build a 14-0 first-quarter lead that looked quite satisfying until quick-with-a-quip Bobby Bowden coached his Seminoles to



PAT center Jeff Anderson kept hard-charging Florida State away from NU's kickers, which was no small feat.



Broderick Thomas (89) and Neil Smith (99) helped shut down the Seminole ground attack.

three, second-quarter TDs. Which brings up another milestone.

Osborne reportedly gave his players a heart-to-heart chewing out at half-time. Something to the effect that they didn't really need to worry about Florida State kicking their tails because if they didn't start playing with more intensity, Osborne would do it himself. It worked. The old grind-it-out offense produced almost 250 yards in the second half after barely getting 100 in the first two quarters. There was even pretty good pressure on McManus.

And, so, a new coaching philosophy might be considered in Lincoln. Since Osborne has had unqualified success with the few half-time pep talks he has had to administer these past few years, perhaps he might consider simply chewing out the team before games ever start. Sort of the Bobby Knight effect.

What? Unnecessary? Probably so.

But the most significant milestone reached this day was that never-give-up Nebraska proved that it was undoubtedly one of the better football teams in America, even at 10-2. So convincing was NU's third-quarter flogging of the Seminoles, that FSU All-American tight end Pat Carter cut a beleaguered pose as the teams switched ends of the field. Carter and his teammates tried to regain some enthusiasm by giving it the old "fourth quarter!" heave-ho. You know, the one that seems to get Oklahoma all juiced up.

Well, Carter was a mess at the break as he could barely raise his hand and feebly hold out four fingers. Instead of conjuring up inner strength, he seemed to be waving at the ground to signify "no more, no more." Florida State generally dragged backed to the huddle.

"They were starting to get demoralized," offensive tackle Keven Lightner said of his defensive line foes. "They were yelling at each other about their mistakes. We were just blowing them back."

True.

Still, Nebraska's consistent domination during the second half couldn't overcome the perfect timing of McManus, who set a Fiesta Bowl record of 375 passing yards against the Huskers. It was the first time in three years that anyone had ripped the Black Shirts so impressively. But for all those yards, Florida State probably wouldn't have won were it not for McManus's uncanny ability to convert third downs in

critical situations. He could look like a sandlot loser on two plays, but he invariably clicked on third down, most often converting with a yard or less to spare.

Osborne put it in perspective: "They've definitely got the best skilled personnel we've seen this year. Their quickness and speed was just outstanding. The best we've seen."

"They really don't compare to Oklahoma," Lightner reflected later. Then again, who does? "They were good on defense, but definitely not exceptional. That's what makes it so frustrating."

Even Bowden agreed his team was, more than anything, exceptionally lucky.

"I'd rather be lucky than good," he said after pondering The Fumble and The Flag. But his quarterback was more than good this day. As a result, television viewers and the 72,000-plus fans at Sun Devil Stadium were treated to what could easily have been the most entertaining game of the bowl season.

In fact, this FSU-NU matchup, although featuring wild contrasts in style, was incredibly even. It's a good bet that those teams could have arranged a 50-year series and it would have stood at 24-24-1 heading into the last game, with the final edge going to whichever team had the fewest players succumb to arthritis, Alzheimer's Disease or general senility.

It was that close.

Lightner can be forgiven for whipping out a cliché at the postgame press conference, because he picked an accurate one. "I just don't feel like we lost today," he said. "It was more like we just ran out of time."

Time had expired on one of Os-

Morgan Gregory (19) stunned Florida State in the closing minutes before a flag nullified this 55-yard reception.



borne's most talented teams ever, and nothing Lightner says will take that big "2" out of the loss column. But there's also no way those 10 W's will go away either. Hell Raising Tour '87 lived up to almost all its expectations in what may have been one of Osborne's most hope-filled and entertaining campaigns as Nebraska head coach.

Win or lose, though, young and wild-ly confident men tend to bounce back quickly to their normal state of abnor-

malcy, and the high-decibel plane ride home was the start of whatever Tour one might call 1988.

Never the type to accept losing well and certainly never the type to embarrass easily, perhaps Nebraska's footballers will simply embrace 1987 for what it was — youthful enthusiasm — and get started on an even more eye-popping 12 months: Revenge of Hell Raising Tour '87.

Faint hearts, beware. ■

SEASON RECAP	9/5 USU	9/12 UCLA	9/26 ASU	10/3 S.CAR	10/10 KU	10/17 OSU	10/24 KSU	10/31 MU	11/7 ISU	11/21 OU	11/28 CU	BOWL	SEASON AVG.
First Downs	32	25	22	24	23	36	26	23	30	11	22	20	24.0
Yards Rushing	515	117	364	268	363	466	456	356	604	197	419	242	362.5
Yards Passing	88	153	95	138	100	151	203	156	62	58	3	142	117.8
Fumbles-Lost	6-3	4-3	3-2	1-1	1-0	3-1	2-2	4-2	5-3	0-0	2-1	4-2	3-2
Time of Possession	51%	47%	49%	66%	52%	63%	59%	60%	54%	41%	53%	48%	53%
Third Down Conversions	7-12	8-13	9-16	6-15	5-14	3-8	10-16	6-12	5-16	3-14	6-2	4-11	6-12
Final Score	56-12	42-33	35-28	30-21	54-2	35-0	56-3	42-7	42-3	7-17	24-7	28-31	37.6-13.7

Pass the Suntan Lotion, Quietly

They get a little frost on their wind shields here and folks around Tempe freak out. "Call the office and get me a credit card, honey, I'll be hours late scraping this glacier. I feel a head cold coming on."

Yes, 40-degree temperatures easily stole Arizona headlines from Nebraska and Florida State, and Cornhusker fans endured a deafening pre-game Fiesta Bowl media hush.

The big buildup was down in Miami, to which Tempe (pronounced by the locals as tem-PE) would relinquish its crown as national championship host, and Nebraskans consequently found little game-related hubbub to distract them from having a mellow old time.

Alas, the 1988 Mellow Bowl.

Bob Devaney played golf. Until frost gridlocked the basin.

Dr. Martin Massengale cancelled with the regents.

The team, and most of the fans, stayed out of trouble.

And Coach Tom Osborne routinely denied to the press he was going to coach somewhere else even though he had been catching as much heat from those Husker fans who can't count past the Number One as the Arizona governor had been catching from just about everybody.

Then John Cooper took the Ohio State job, and host city moaned, "Do not foresake me, oh, my darling." To celebrate the end of that suspenseful saga, a Husker player strolled outside the Scottsdale Sheraton Resort (team headquarters), and in those gastly 40-degree temperatures, wearing only shorts and a T-shirt.

Mellow, man, mellow.

"The Nebraska people were so nice," said a Sheraton clerk.

"Docile," said a bellman.

"After the Miami people stayed here last year, you couldn't help but like Nebraska," said the clerk. "I saw the battle fatigue with my own eyes. Ugh. On the day of the game, we rooted for Penn State while we watched in the hotel office. We didn't care if anybody heard us yell. After they left, we sent a bill for \$50,000 in damages to the rooms. I feel like we ought to be paying the Nebraska people. They were so nice."

Broderick Thomas was tired.

Steve Taylor was low key.

Those blue Aqua Vend machines were omnipresent, giving locals and visitors alike a chance to buy a gallon of water for only a quarter. "The water here tastes funny," said a valley resident, getting two gallons' worth. "It's the chemicals."

Don't drink the water?

"No, I wouldn't drink the water."

Maybe that's why half the lawns around here are dirt. Dirt and pea gravel. Call it desert landscaping.

The evening before the game, Sheraton employees covered plants and shrubs all around the hotel with table cloths to fend off frost. They didn't bother with the pea gravel.

Bart Starr stayed at the Sheraton and spent most of his time on the courts with Barbara, the German tennis pro who hit into the net a lot but still sounded good calling out the score.

Dana Brinson played his radio loud. Mellow, man, mellow.

McCathorn Clayton looked like a middle-aged professor with his granny glasses.

If someone gave you directions like, "turn left at the palm tree," you were as good as lost.

All the cars were clean here. It never rains. Cars never get muddy, they never rust. The valley is a good place to buy a used car and drive it back to Nebraska.

Most hotel bathrooms came equipped with shampoo, conditioner, hand cream and sun tan lotion.

The sunsets were gorgeous.

Governor Kay Orr took a constitutional in the mornings.

Coach John Melton remembered Arizona sports columnist Bob Hurt, who used to write for the *Daily Oklahoman*. "He was about the only guy down here who wrote anything nice about us after the Arizona State game," said Melton. "Hurt's all right." Bob Hurt looks like John Melton a little. But can he fish?

One Husker player did belly-busters in the hotel's heated jacuzzi in his underwear.

Still, there was a game to be played, and the excitement generated on the field was a spicy cold cut sandwiched between lazy days of lounging. It was *real* football. The grass was actually

real. No Astroturf. In a land of dirt and pea gravel, here was nature's best, and it stained Nebraska's white pants with green blotches. It was bright and sunny on game day. Almost too sunny. And the wind was so strong that the Fuji Film blimp bucked and bounced like a rodeo bronc. The colorful hot-air balloon with "Nebraska" on the side made a devil-may-care ascent in the fourth quarter, and it blew over the stadium faster than maybe Keith Jones might have, and definitely faster than Rod Smith (the broken leg, remember?).

One yellow-clad Fiesta Bowl official let his partisanship slip, and said, "No wonder they couldn't beat Oklahoma," when Tyreese Knox lost two yards. After Steve Taylor next hit Todd Millikan with a first-down pass, he realized his slip of the tongue and said, "That's more like it." His pro-FSU comments overheard, the Fiesta Bowl official was now a Husker fan, and he even displayed the school colors. His face was bright red.

With the 1987 season brought to a 31-28 close, most Husker fans retired to their hotel rooms or to a relative's house, which may have been the case more often since so many Nebraskans have been transplanted in Arizona and Southern California. The entertainment of the night was mostly wishing ill will or good luck to Oklahoma in its quest for the national title in what turned out to be the Shock Bowl.

The next day, Head Trainer George Sullivan scowered the Sheraton, looking for players and reminding them to be on the bus to the airport. "I wish we would give them a commercial ticket back to Lincoln, and just say 'See you there,' instead of chartering a plane," said Sullivan, looking hopeless.

As the seven buses of players, coaches and significant others prepared to leave, a voice bellowed, "Has anyone seen Coach Samuel's nephew?"

"Who?"

"Roy Samuel"

"No. What does he look like? How old is he?"

"He's a sophomore in high school. Fourteen or 15."

"That's a bad age. Real bad."

"Yeah."

Everyone in place, the team departed with hotel and Fiesta Bowl personnel standing on the curb, waving bye-bye. Hell Raising Tour '87 pulled out of Tempe with a sigh. ■

Football is important!

...so is the FCA

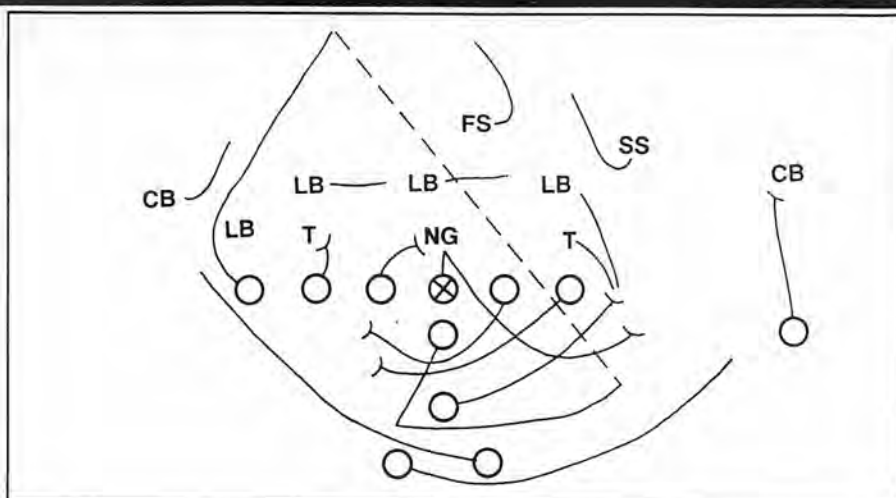
South Central United States
3300 Hickory Ridge
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
(405) 348-0355

Western United States
500 Coffman, Suite 106
Longmont, Colorado 80501
(303) 772-5735

FCA NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS OFFICE
8701 Leeds Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64129
(816) 921-0909
John Erickson

THE FELLOWSHIP
OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES





Husker 'Bone Bombs FSU Through Air

Looks can be deceiving, and Nebraska boggled Florida State in more ways than one when the Cornhuskers showed the wishbone then threw a 48-yard pass that set up the third quarter go-ahead rally. The Fiesta Bowl Play of the Game is easily Countersweep Bootleg Pass.

Tight end Tom Banderas pulled in this pass from Steve Taylor on the third play after intermission, and the longest play of the day not only gave Nebraska momentum, but it also set up Taylor's two-yard scoring run moments later to tie the score, 21-21.

I-back Keith Jones had started the second half with a couple of five-yard pitches to set up the Huskers at their own 33. NU was in the 'bone with Jones at right half, Richard Bell at left half and Micah Heibel at fullback. Hendley Hawkins was split wide right. The ball was on the left hash with Banderas playing tight left.

FSU must have respected Banderas as a blocker because the Seminoles cheated unabashedly to his side, the narrow side, of the field.

With the snap from center Jake Young, Taylor started what was anything but pure wishbone. Jones began the madness by countering left and carrying out Taylor's fake handoff. Meanwhile, Bell and Heibel sprinted right with Taylor sandwiched in between them for what looked like a basic pitch.

What killed FSU was that Banderas slipped through its coverage un-

touched. First, the on-side end ignored him at the line and rushed in hard after Taylor only to be flattened by pulling guard John McCormick. Next, all confusion broke loose. Second-team defensive tackle Thomas Harp may have been trying an outside stunt as he literally backed up and moved to the outside. Cornerback Martin Mayhew pinched inside. With those two about to collide, Banderas slipped between them and headed straight upfield past yet another potential coverman, linebacker David Palmer, who then tripped over Harp.

The last hope was free safety Greg Newell, which was no hope at all. Newell had bitten on Taylor's sprint to the wide side and was moving laterally in hot pursuit until seeing Taylor plant and turn to throw. By then, it was too late.

All this time, FSU applied no pass rush pressure. First, Young quickly tagged nose guard Odell Haggins only to pull back quickly and sprint wide to give pass blocking. Left guard Andy Keeler moved over quickly to pin Haggins to the turf. Heibel provided some spectacular blocking by initially kicking out the feet of defensive tackle Eric Hayes and then bulling ahead to trip linebacker Terry Warren, who had overplayed badly to the short side.

Finishing up the blocking scheme, tackles Keven Lightner and Bob Sledge had it easy. Lightner pulled to the short side and protected Taylor's blind side

but encountered no pressure. Sledge stepped forward and quickly screened out Hayes, who was still doing his mystery maneuver.

Upfield, Banderas was behind everyone but had to wait up an instant for the pass. By then, free safety Newell was racing full-speed-ahead for the tackle, but he overran the play when Banderas stopped abruptly.

Seeing speedy cornerback Martin Mayhew from the corner of his eye, Banderas wisely switched the ball from his left to right hand to protect against a strip effort. It almost backfired. He finally cut back to the middle as Mayhew fought off a stiffarm and grabbed Banderas's legs. Strong safety Stan Shriver came in high to assist and actually hit the ball that Banderas had moved in an effort to avoid a fumble. He fumbled.

But the ball bounced straight back up into his arms, and Nebraska had possession on the FSU 19. The Huskers scored three plays later.

So, what were the killing blows here?

First, that Florida State chose to cheat so much to the short side of the field. When Nebraska ran right, the FSU linebackers were totally out of position to pressure the quarterback. Second, Heibel's two-for-one block that grounded the play-side tackle and linebacker. Next, the counter fake to Jones and subsequent option fake held free safety Newell mesmerized and oblivious to Banderas. ■

Don't play games with your lungs.

Your lungs are an incredible piece of equipment.
But they're also incredibly delicate. Every time you smoke, you damage your lungs.
Puff after puff, day after day, your lungs get weaker and weaker until finally, they're useless.
Like a flat football. Don't let that happen to your precious lungs.

—Eric Dickerson



TAKE CARE OF YOUR LUNGS. THEY'RE ONLY HUMAN.

AMERICAN  LUNG ASSOCIATION
The Christmas Seal People®

Space contributed by the publisher as a public service.

Football Cum Laude

It's been going on for years and will probably continue for years to come. It's the Husker tradition of football and academic excellence.



Who, me?" asks Bob Devaney, in rare form. "Why would you want to talk to me about Academic All-Americans?" Devaney deadpans. "I think you've got the wrong guy." But, coach, weren't you an Academic All-American? He senses that he's got a live one on the phone. "Yeah. Sure. That's me."

Modest to the very end, Devaney sums up Nebraska's unmatched record of producing stellar student-athletes: "The smartest thing I ever did was to bring in Jim Ross and Tom Osborne. Those two are the guys who got it going. It's kind of an impressive thing, isn't it?"

Very.

Junior free safety Mark Blazek and senior defensive end Jeff Jamrog were each named Academic All-American this season, pushing Nebraska's total of such all-stars to 38, tops in the country.

Since 1952, Academic All-American teams have been selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. To be eligible, student-athletes must be regular performers and have at least a 3.2 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) during their college careers.

Not only is Nebraska's long-term tradition the nation's best, but during the 1980's Osborne-coached athletes have dominated the selections. Cornhuskers have received these academic honors 13 times this decade, while the closest school is Penn State with eight honorees. Ohio State has had seven Academic All-Americans during the same period. However, no university in the 1980's besides those two can claim to even have half as many as Nebraska.

How did that tradition start?

Devaney searches his memory.

"It pretty much started with Jim Ross," he says. Ross followed Devaney to Nebraska from Wyoming, and one of

Academic All-American Mark Blazek (23).

his duties as a Husker assistant coach was to lead the freshman squad. He also led the initial effort to push academics.

For example, one of the first key players that Ross helped recruit for Devaney was tight end Tony Jeter. Not only was Jeter an All-American, but he and Jim Osberg were Devaney's first Academic All-Americans.

"It didn't start with any great and glorious plan to create scholars," explained Devaney. "We just wanted to see the players graduate and stay eligible."

"As it turned out Jim took his job pretty seriously and got us started on the right track. Then we got Tom Osborne."

A fine student and teacher in his own right, Osborne soon assumed the role of academic leader for the football team. Much of Nebraska's current success in producing Academic All-Americans can be traced back to Osborne's early efforts. It was his suggestion that started the influx of academic counselors, non-coaching specialists. Foremost among those counselors was Dr. Ursula Walsh, who oversaw the Husker program throughout the 1970s and mid-80s.

Concerning the two newest additions to Nebraska's Academic All-American list, Blazek posted a 3.95 GPA in Social Sciences and Jemrog owned a 3.65 mark in Business Administration. Fullback Micah Heibel (3.59 in Secondary Math Education) was named to the second team.

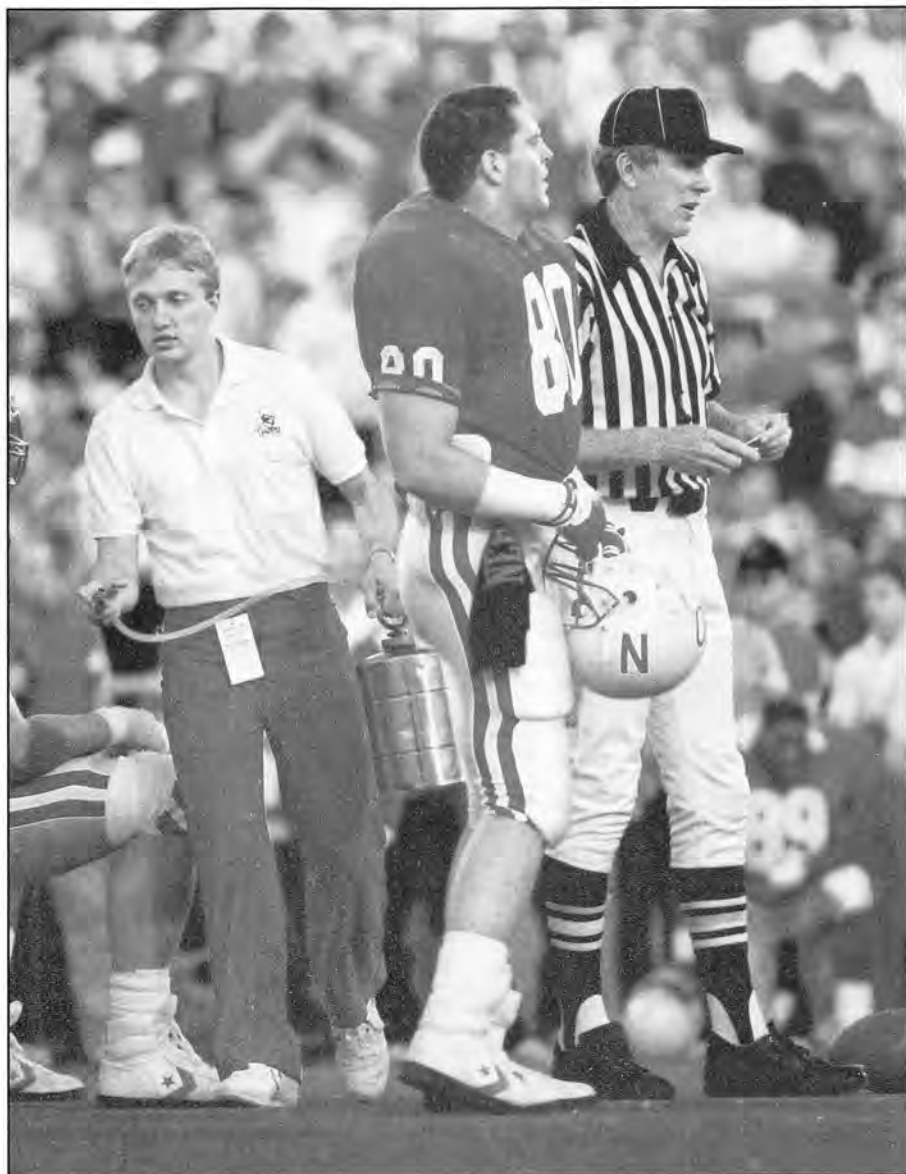
Blazek has a chance to become only the seventh Cornhusker football player to win national academic honors two times.

There have only been two years (1985 and '74) when Nebraska did not have at least one Academic All-American under Osborne's tenure as head coach. ■

NEBRASKA'S ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

1960: Don Fricke
Pat Clare
1962: Jim Hoge
1963: Dennis Claridge
1965: Jim Osberg
Tony Jeter
1966: Marvin Mueller
1969: Randy Reeves
1971: Jeff Kinney
Larry Jacobson
1973: Frosty Anderson
1975: Rik Bonness
Tom Heiser
1976: Vince Ferragamo
Ted Harvey
1977: Ted Harvey
1978: Jim Pillen
George Andrews
1979: Rod Horn
Randy Schleusener

Kelly Saalfeld
1980: Randy Schleusener
Jeff Finn
1981: Ric Lindquist
Randy Theiss
Dave Rimington
1982: Randy Theiss
Dave Rimington
Kris Van Norman
Bill Weber
1983: Scott Strasburger
Rob Stuckey
1984: Scott Strasburger
Rob Stuckey
Mark Traynowicz
1986: Dale Klein
Tom Welter
1987: Jeff Jamrog
Mark Blazek



Academic All-American Jeff Jamrog (80).

Today's Lucky Football Lottery

Nebraska's two top senior defensive tackles have NFL-type skills, but where they go in the NFL draft may be a matter of luck.

By Mark Owens



Tim Rother has momentum. By improving dramatically throughout 1987, Nebraska's senior defensive tackle has improved his stock in the April National Football League draft and may even be the second Husker to be selected according to pro scouts.

A year ago at this time, he was barely second team.

"He's brought up his grade one full rating point since last spring," says Harry Buffington of National Football Scouting, a player-evaluation service that grades college athletes on their potential to make it in the NFL. "We looked at him in April, September and November, and he graded higher each time.

"There's a good chance he'll go in the early rounds and certainly no later than the middle rounds."

What on earth has happened to this former walkon from Bellvue? It's not that he's any taller. Pro scouts have always measured him at just over 6-foot, 5-inches, which in a business that covets height is marvelous. And Rother's always weighed about 265 or 270 pounds for the past couple of years. In Buffington's eyes, this senior who could qualify for Big Eight Newcomer of the Year is just flat-out getting better.

If Rother is drafted that early, it would mean Nebraska might very well have had two of the most talented defensive tackles in college football this year. The only Husker projected to go

Talent scouts like the way Keith Jones can set the grass on fire.

Winner Is...

higher than Rother is his counterpart at right tackle Neil Smith.

Buffington loves Smith.

"He's a sure make," says the veteran scout. "Depending on what the teams need and in what order they draft, Smith ought to go in the first round or early in the second round at the latest."

By NFL standards, Smith has it all: height, weight, speed. Especially speed.

"We've timed Smith in the 4.5s," says Buffington.

Come again! Four-five? The Nebraska media guide has him listed as a 4.67 electronic time.

"Yes, but we do it by hand, and those times are a little faster. And, too, that 4.5 is an average. We've got him three times — one at 4.6, one at 4.51 and one at 4.48."

Four-point-four-eight? Some halfbacks don't run that fast.

"A lot of halfbacks don't run that fast. Old Neil can set the grass on fire. He's a good football player."

So, the top two Huskers in the draft should be defensive players, both coming from distinctly different directions. As a 1987 co-captain, Smith got preseason raves as an All-American candidate and he produced All-American results. He had 65 total tackles this year while making 49 stops in 1986 as a much-heralded super sub. Rother wasn't even heralded as an "all right" sub two years ago when he made only 15 tackles. This year, however, he led NU in quarterback sacks and tackles behind the line. For the past six months, he's been on a tear.

The next most likely candidate for

If the pros snatch speedy Lee Jones, NU could send three defensive tackles through the draft.



pro ball should be another player with momentum and speed: Keith Jones.

"Gosh, he just runs like hell," Buffington says of Nebraska's senior I-back from Omaha. "We've timed him in the 4.3s and even some 4.2s. And, yes, he has shown some good improve-

Tom Banderas (87) and Rod Smith (88) could give NU's ground-based program two receivers in the NFL draft.





Neil Smith is Nebraska's bet to go in the first round, which would make anybody smile.

ment over the past year."

The main strike against Jones, like many of Nebraska's draft candidates, is height. At just under 5-10, Jones is "a little bit short," according to Buffington's measuring tape, "but not that much." It's a good bet Jones, who finished with 1,232 rushing yards this year and a 7.2 yards-per-carry average, will be drafted. The question is where. Before the all-star bowl games and evaluation camps, the early guess was the middle rounds and possibly the late rounds.

"We've got a lot of good offensive backs this year," Buffington says of Jones's competition.

Perhaps the next most promising candidate is strong safety Brian Washington, who has great speed and bulk but comes up "short" in the other critical category. Pro scouts have Washington listed at about 6-foot and 220 pounds with consistent 4.5s in the 40-yard dash. "We've had three different scouts look at him the past two years," says Buffington, "and they all say the same thing; he's a good prospect. He ought to go somewhere in the middle rounds would be my guess."

Joining Washington as a projected middle-round prospect is tough-guy

split end Rod Smith, who caught 21 passes this year and was named second-team All-Big Eight.

"I'm sure he'll go," Buffington says of Smith, "but it's just a matter of where. He's a smart kid with good hands and decent speed. Plus, he's tough as dirt. If he gets over his broken leg all right, Rod will be drafted somewhere in the middle rounds, and he ought to be able to stick it out."

Smith broke a leg during the Oklahoma game, sustained further damage against Colorado and didn't play in the Fiesta Bowl.

That pretty much looks like Nebraska's top-of-the-line players as far as pro potential is concerned. But Buffington sees several Huskers going in the late rounds or as free agents. Although the odds are against them, they've got a chance.

Weak-side linebacker Steve Forch has tremendous speed for his position (4.7). At just under 6-2 and 225 pounds, this All-Big Eight performer, however, may be too short for some pro teams. "Gosh, he runs good, though," says Buffington, and that may make him an attractive choice for teams that have specific needs for weak-side linebackers.

Another linebacker prospect is Omaha native Lee Jones, Keith's older brother, who's also being considered as a defensive end by pro scouts. "As a pass-rush type person, Jones might make it," says Buffington. "He runs 4.6s all the time, which is stout. But he's one of those short people — just under 6-1. We've graded him at both positions."

"Now don't get me wrong — there's nothing wrong or bad with a guy only being six-foot or six-one, but these pro teams like 'em a little bit taller. Everybody's bigger in the NFL. And everything else being equal, they'll probably pick the six-four kid over the guy who's six-one."

Getting caught in that predicament this year is consensus All-American offensive guard John McCormick.

"His problem is size," says Buffington. "I don't think there's any doubt he's a great college player, but John's barely six-foot. He may make it, but the odds are against him. Someone might gamble on him in the late rounds."

Even at 6-2, offensive tackle Keven Lightner may only have a slightly better chance at an NFL career than his right-side-of-the-line partner McCormick. "Keven's not especially fast or speedy — we've had him around 4.9 or 5-flat in the 40. I expect he'll be drafted by somebody. Probably in the late rounds, and then it's up to him to make it happen from there."

Tight end Tom Banderas also has his fate as an NFL player in his own hands. "Yes, Tom's a real good blocker, but he also runs in the 4.8s, so he won't be starting any grass fires. You know, he catches the ball pretty good, though, and I wouldn't be surprised if someone goes after him in the late rounds. But that late-round stuff is pretty iffy, and he's just as likely to have to go the free agent route, which is no fun."

In Banderas's case, does something like his 48-yard reception in the Fiesta Bowl or a big day in an all-star game help? "Oh sure, Tom didn't hurt himself in the Fiesta Bowl," says Buffington, "Except for getting caught from behind on that long pass."

Out of the spotlight much of the year because of injuries, wingback Von Sheppard should get some looks from the play-for-pay folks. His 4.5 speed, size and ability have scouts smiling, and there's an outside chance he may be drafted.

"I can't say enough what an inexact

science this scouting stuff is," emphasizes Buffington. "There are some guys who are so big and fast and talented that you can bet they'll make it. For them to bust is real unusual. These are generally your first and second rounders. Then, you've got all these guys in the middle rounds, and you can hang your hat on about half of 'em. It's a 50-50 deal or maybe a little better than that for the middle-round guys to make it in the NFL. Finally, there's the late rounders and free agent guys — the long-shot people.

"But, basically, all the guys we're talking about from Nebraska are good prospects. We just rate the players, and then the NFL teams will do the darnedest things."

That's the truth. Last year's draft was full of surprises for everyone, including Huskers.

For example, Buffington and a lot of scouts had I-back Doug DuBose rated as a fine prospect, the type who could challenge for an early round slot. However, DuBose wasn't drafted at all, only to later sign as a free agent with San Francisco. Cornerback Brian Davis graded out by most pro scouts as a late-round selection, but lo and behold, Washington selected him in the second round as their first pick of the draft. A couple of surprise picks, yes, but both ex-Huskers landed on teams that made this year's NFL playoffs.

Also on the shocking side, scouts had rated former defensive end Tony Holloway as a great prospect at outside linebacker, and there was talk he might even go in the early rounds because of his outstanding (4.6) speed. You bet. Holloway wasn't even drafted.

All told, four Huskers were drafted last year: Davis, defensive lineman Danny Noonan, linebacker Marc Munford and offensive guard Stan Parker.

Of those four draftees, the departure time of two was accurately predicted. Noonan, indeed, was a first-round selection by the Dallas Cowboys. Buffington called Munford, "a keeper, probably in the middle rounds." He went in the fourth.

However, Davis was definitely a "surprise" and Parker was picked ahead of Tom Welter, generally considered last year to be Nebraska's most promising prospect out of the offensive line. In fact, Welter wasn't even drafted.

So, the upcoming March draft looks like this — defensive tackles Neil Smith and Rother appear to be the only true "locks" from the Hell Rais-

Some scouts think fast-finishing Tim Rother (78) could be Nebraska's second best pro prospect.



ing Tour '87 squad. I-back Jones, safety Washington and split end Rod Smith "ought" to be drafted in the middle rounds, but they could all go higher or lower depending on the needs of whoever's drafting at the time.

Banderas, Forch, Lightner, McCormick, Lee Jones and Sheppard could all get a late-round phone call, or none at all.

If those five early-to-middle-round projectees indeed get selected, the Huskers could have their most draftees since the 1984 team produced six picks in the regular phase of the NFL draft. Each of the past two years, only four Nebraska players have been selected.

With any luck at all — and much of the pro selection process can be luck. Neil Smith may well end up as Nebraska's 20th player in history to be a first-round selection.

HUSKER FIRST ROUND DRAFTEES

1937: Loyd Cardwell (halfback), by Detroit Lions.

1937: Sam Francis (fullback) by Philadelphia Eagles.

1937: Les McDonald (end), by Chicago Bears.

1964: Bob Brown (guard) by Philadelphia Eagles.

1964: Lloyd Voss (tackle) by Green Bay Packers.

1972: Jeff Kinney (halfback) by Kansas City Chiefs.

1972: Jerry Tagge (quarterback) by Green Bay Packers.

1972: Larry Jacobson (tackle) by New York Giants.

1973: Johnny Rodgers (halfback) by San Diego Chargers.

1974: John Dutton (tackle) by Baltimore Colts.

1975: Tom Rudd (linebacker) by Buffalo Bills.

1979: George Andrews (linebacker) by Los Angeles Rams.

1980: Junior Miller (tight end) by Atlanta Falcons.

1982: Jimmy Williams (linebacker) by Detroit Lions.

1983: Dave Rimington (center) by Cincinnati Bengals.

1984: Irving Fryar (wide receiver) by New England Patriots as first player chosen.

1984: Dean Steinkuhler (offensive lineman) by Houston Oilers.

1984: Mike Rozier (running back) by Houston Oilers in supplemental draft.

1987: Danny Noonan (defensive tackle) by Dallas Cowboys. ■

Confidentially

With Nebraska's team plane delayed at the Phoenix Airport for its return flight after the Fiesta Bowl, memories resurfaced of a little-known, courageous and yet comical Husker legend: Gary Schneider.

Schneider was a junior strong safety on the 1985 Nebraska team that last played in the Fiesta Bowl. The O'Neil native played in only four games that season but got to go with the team to Tempe. He didn't get to go back to Nebraska. As the story goes, Schneid-

"I don't see why Nebraska shouldn't be one of the best teams in the country next year. They've got Thomas. I think Jake Young and Bob Sledge are good linemen. Steve Taylor is a great quarterback. Like I said, Etienne should be fantastic, and Charles Fryar is a good little cornerback."

— John Hadley

er chose to simply catch a ride to the airport instead of taking the team buses. In an understandable mistake, he went inside the terminal building to wait for his teammates. If NU's return trip had been on a commercial flight, there would have been no problem, but it was chartered and the team buses drove past all the terminal congestion and straight to their waiting jet.

It wasn't until he noticed the plane rumbling into taxi position that Schneider caught his mistake. He raced out of the terminal, got a ride on one of those baggage-loader buggies and somehow convinced the driver to chase down the jet on the runway. He caught the jet. Passengers inside rushed to windows to get a peek at Schneider waving at the pilot. The pilot did not wave back. For all his effort, Schneider was left behind, waving frantically on the runway and to eventually find a commercial flight home. A Husker legend. . .

To address the rumor that a Nebraska assistant coach was considering a head coaching position, Tom Osborne asked his staff twice in private, before

and after the Fiesta Bowl, if anyone was looking around. Nobody spoke up either time. Staffers said later that the mindset of NU coaches is such that anyone who was serious about a job change would have said so then. . .

John Hadley, college football editor of *The Sporting News*, is thrilled that the season is over. Especially taxing for him was the annual selection of All-Americans.

"Looking at all that video tape of players just killed my eyes," said Hadley. TSN picked Neil Smith as a first-team All-American. "Nebraska had some great players this year. Man, was I impressed with LeRoy Etienne. We run a first team and a second team, and I would have put Etienne on there if I'd had one more team. He and John Roper of Texas A&M were the two most underrated linebackers in America.

"I had Tim Rother on my second team at mid-season. He was just an animal the first half of the year. But then he tailed off as far as his stats and big plays were concerned."

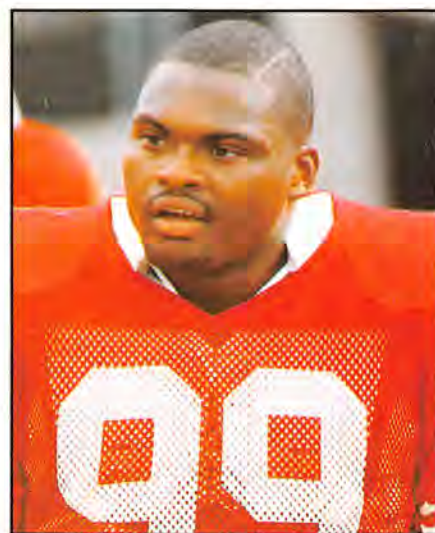
Broderick Thomas was on TSN second team.

"He could have made the first team," said Hadley, "but he was also close to being beat out for the second team. I tried to keep in mind that he was hurt some during the season.

"I don't see why Nebraska shouldn't be one of the best teams in the country next year. They've got Thomas. I think Jake Young and Bob Sledge are good linemen. Steve Taylor is a great quarterback even though he does seem to wilt in the Oklahoma game. Like I said, Etienne should be fantastic, and Charles Fryar is a good little cornerback. I saw tape on all of them.

"But let me tell you, losing Smith and Rother will be a big, big blow. I think Smith will just hammer the NFL. Those long arms of his. And his speed! If he had another year, Rother might have become a big-time star, too."

Several Husker players were bewildered after the Orange Bowl, and nobody had a clear answer to Oklahoma's demise against Miami. The loss didn't seem to make anybody happy.



Neil Smith

Several members of the national media covering the Fiesta Bowl agreed that the Sooners shouldn't drop off much next year, especially on offense. The key will be defense. For the first time in five years, OU will not have a superstar at linebacker. Plus, the Sooners will lose a four-time all-conference performer at one end position and a two-year starter at the other.

Deluxe free safety Rickey Dixon graduates this year, and so does strong safety David Vickers. As far as Nebraska, Colorado and Missouri are concerned, OU loses key players at the positions that are most critical to stopping option football.

On offense, losing Keith Jackson may not be such a blow considering how little he was used this past season. Young and talented replacements are slated to fill in at all these slots, but OU's race-for-the-title success will depend on how many boom and how many bust.

When OU's Jim Donnan didn't get the North Carolina head coaching job,

Several members of the national media at the Fiesta Bowl agreed that Oklahoma shouldn't drop off much next year, especially on offense. But for the first time in five years, OU will not have a superstar at linebacker.

a lot of coaches around the Big Eight were surprised, including Donnan. Former Nebraska receivers coach Gene Huey followed John Cooper to Ohio State. ■

CLIP THIS COUPON **NOW!!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Basketball Weekly, "Free Offer"
17820 East Warren, Detroit, MI 48224

060

☐ Send me a **FREE** Sample Copy of **BASKETBALL WEEKLY**.

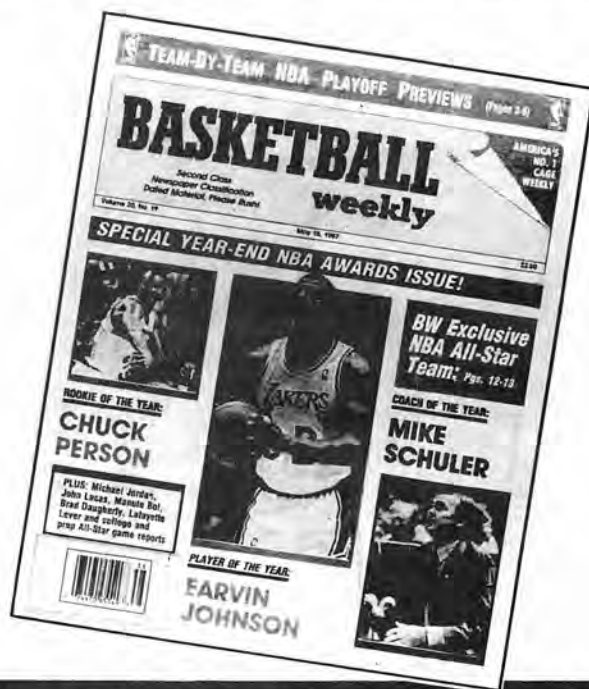
☐ Send me 20 issues for \$25.00 and bill me later (a \$50.00 value on the newsstand). I save \$3.00 off regular subscription price.

Credit card holders
call 1-800-521-8808

BASKETBALL WEEKLY, America's #1 cage weekly, will send you a **Free Sample Copy** without cost or obligation. Just fill in the coupon above and send it in now. You'll receive one of our huge pre-season issues worth \$2.50 without cost or obligation (Offer expires 12-15-87).

Or if you so desire you can subscribe for **\$25.00** for the entire season of 20 big issues. You can cancel when you receive your bill if you aren't pleased. Otherwise just send in **\$25.00** for your season ticket to the best basketball information and analysis to be found anywhere.

- 21st Year of Publication
- Over 10 Million Copies Sold
- Complete Coverage of College, Pro, and high school basketball
- Read by Over 1000 Members of Media

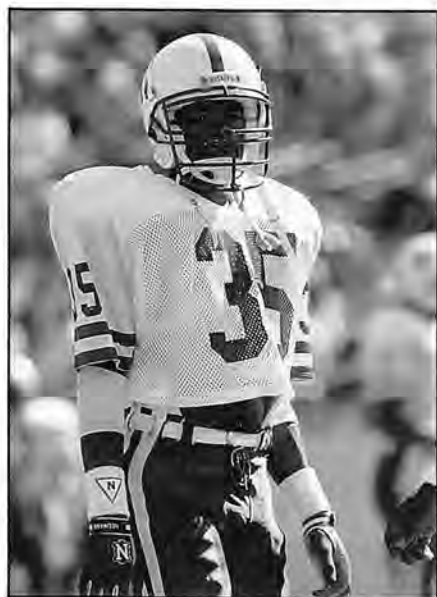


CLIP THIS COUPON **NOW!!**

What Cold? What Snow? This Is Great!

Recruiting has changed dramatically at Nebraska, but it's still the people that make prospects forget the weather

By Mike Babcock



Second-team cornerback Tahaun Lewis is an example of the unique recruit who makes an impact his first year.

Dave Gillespie has been there. He's experienced it. He's recruited football players for Nebraska, and he's been recruited as a football player by Nebraska, back in 1973.

Cornhusker assistant George Darlington recruited Gillespie, who played high school football in Saratoga, Calif.

Darlington was in his first year at Nebraska, having come from San Jose State. Rick Duval was the Cornhusker recruiting coordinator. The football offices were located in the Coliseum. And the program was under the direction of a new head coach, Tom Osborne.

Gillespie and Bob Hayes, an offensive tackle from Bakersfield, Calif., made their campus visits to Lincoln the same weekend. Their player-hosts were Bob Lingenfelter and Randy Benish.

The bitter cold of a Nebraska Febru-

ary was a shock to the systems of the two Californians. Gillespie hasn't forgotten. "But you get here and there are so many things going on, so much to absorb that you don't stop and think about the weather," he said.

Gillespie's decision to become a Cornhusker, and turn down UCLA, Oregon, Brigham Young and San Jose State, had a more substantial basis than weather.

"When I was recruited, everyone was very straightforward and honest with me," said Gillespie, an I-back. "It's still that way. That was the attraction of Nebraska for me. The facilities and other things have changed a little.

"There wasn't an academic support unit, to speak of. The weight room was in its infancy. We walked through it. Things weren't quite as organized. They were still very impressive."

But the most important factor for a young athlete trying to settle on a university was Nebraska's "approach, its philosophy," Gillespie said. And "it's the same now as it was then."

Gillespie, in his second season as Cornhusker recruiting coordinator, is optimistic that philosophy will produce another solid recruiting class for Nebraska this winter.

The Cornhuskers have had outstanding recruiting classes in recent seasons. The 1985 group, which included Steve Taylor, Broderick Thomas and LeRoy Etienne, among others, was rated the nation's best by Houston-based recruiting analyst Max Emfinger. He ranked last year's class, with *Parade* All-Americans Mickey Joseph, Nate Turner, Leodis Flowers, sixth.

But each recruiting season is different, according to Gillespie. Momentum doesn't carry over. "From our standpoint, it starts anew," he said.

Recruiting success one year doesn't ensure recruiting success the next.

"I don't know what runs through prospects' minds, though I'm sure what is a (recruiting) advantage is our program's success, in general. We've recruited good players over the years, and that shapes what a prospect thinks about our system," said Gillespie.

Nebraska's success — Osborne's teams have always finished in the Top 10, played in bowl games and won at least nine games — usually means many of the top high school players in the country are willing to take one of their NCAA-allowed five official recruiting visits to Lincoln. Each

school can be host to 95 recruits, and interest in the Cornhuskers is high this season.

"In Texas, we're to the point of almost having to turn good players away because we're running out of visits," said Jack Pierce, Nebraska's off-campus recruiter. "There are a lot of good kids down there and kids who are really enthused about Nebraska."

Enthusiasm doesn't mean an athlete plans to accept a scholarship, however. Getting a visit is only the first step. And, as Osborne is quick to point out, scheduling visits by the nation's best high school players doesn't ensure a successful recruiting effort.

"Recruiting is a lot like selling automobiles and a lot of other things. Second place isn't worth a darn," Osborne said. "Everybody who visits here likes it very much. But we're always battling distance and weather on so many kids. We get our share but it's certainly not automatic."

Distance, of course, is a big factor for Nebraska, which recruits coast-to-coast. If Nebraska had all the players who told Osborne they would have become Cornhuskers if the school was 500 miles closer to their home, "we'd probably never lose a game," he said.

Nebraska has increased its recruiting presence in talent-rich Texas this winter, shifting defensive ends coach Tony Samuel to the Houston area.

Samuel had recruited the Mideast, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. But "there's so much competition there, we just felt like we were spinning our wheels," Gillespie said. "Like any smart business, you want to go where you're having some success or at least where you think you'll have success."

"We felt like we could use another recruiter in Texas because we've had a lot of success down there."

Cornhusker starters Broderick Thomas and Jake Young are Texans, Thomas from Houston, Young from Midland.

Among Nebraska's other Texans are defensive backs Tim Jackson and Wendell Wooten; offensive linemen Doug Glaser, John Roschal and Bill Bobbora; redshirt Kenny Walker, who's slated to

move from defensive end to linebacker in the spring; freshmen Jon Crippen, Jeff Chaney, Chris Garrett and Keithen McCant; reserve I-back Ray Coleman, and Will Thomas, who sat out the fall because of the NCAA's Proposition 48.

With the addition of Samuel, who also covers northern Louisiana, three Cornhusker assistants now have recruiting responsibilities in Texas. Pierce handles the Dallas area, as well New Orleans, and Milt Tenopir has West Texas in addition to Colorado.

Nebraska's emphasis in the Lone Star State apparently paid off in visits. In December, Emfinger told the *Oma-ha World Herald* the Cornhuskers had been able to schedule visits from "almost every one of the top players in Texas."

According to Emfinger, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Louisiana State and Oklahoma State have combined to get more of the top high school players in Texas than Southwest Conference teams have in recent years. They're getting "50

percent of those top 50 kids (each season) and the Southwest Conference schools are fighting for the other 50 percent," Emfinger told columnist Ken Hambleton of the *Lincoln Journal-Star*.

The Cornhuskers also are attempting to establish a presence in Oklahoma, where Ron Brown has been assigned. Brown, in his first year as receivers coach, also is recruiting Kansas, Missouri (except Kansas City) and Arkansas.

Randy Williams, a highly regarded fullback, comes from Broken Arrow, Okla. However, Nebraska didn't recruit him out of high school. He signed a letter of intent with Oklahoma State but transferred because he failed to meet its entrance requirements.

The Cornhuskers' decision to go into Oklahoma may surprise some people.

But "we felt like we'd get a fair reception there," said Gillespie. "We felt that's an area with a lot of good players and that we could be an alternative to the Sooners. Kids are aware



Although film is still used in college, most high school prospects are evaluated first from video tape. But neither will ease Charlie McBride's eye strain.



Off-campus recruiter Jack Pierce is Nebraska's chief door-to-door salesman and is often the first Husker face a recruit sees.

of us through our rivalry and our exposure playing Oklahoma.

"Because of that and the constant media attention, Oklahoma kids have a natural interest in us, just like kids here have a natural interest in Oklahoma. Hopefully, it can become a good (recruiting) area for us. So far, we've gotten a very good response."

It's certainly worth a try. Nebraska had never been successful recruiting in Louisiana until it went after, and got, All-American Neil Smith out of New Orleans in 1984. Since then, the Cornhuskers have attracted linebacker LeRoy Etienne from New Iberia, freshman strong safety Reggie Cooper from Slidell, and Joseph from Marrero.

Nebraska also has spent more time recruiting in Arizona this season. Dan Young has that responsibility, in addition to covering Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

The other areas in which the Cornhuskers are actively recruiting are Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, where John Melton has responsibility; the Chicago and Kansas City metropolitan areas, which Charlie McBride handles; New Jersey and the East Coast, Florida and some of Virginia, covered by Frank Solich; and California and the West Coast, which is still Darlington's.

It's no secret Nebraska is looking for defensive linemen, what with the graduation losses of Smith, Tim Rother and Lee Jones. "That's important to

us," Gillespie said. "We're hoping young players we have in our system now can develop. But we're also hoping we can get some freshmen who might be able to come in and play some right away, give us some immediate help."

The Cornhuskers are looking for a linebacker or two. "That's an area where we certainly want to get some good, young players," Gillespie said.

"But I think the program is on solid ground. It's not going to make or break us is we don't recruit a player at a certain position. We just try to go out and get the best players we can, regardless of their position.

"I think our program has the luxury, somewhat, of being able to say we have great players already in the system. We're not short anywhere. So we want to get the best player we can. That's not always true, but I think in general that's the way we operate."

Players often switch positions when they get to Nebraska.

"It's really hard, especially with an offensive lineman, for example, or any other position for that matter, to take what a player does on film in a high school situation and be able to project him into a college situation, to say, 'Yes, that's the position he's going to play here.' We look for a player's physical abilities," Gillespie said.

"It's certainly not in stone where someone's going to play. There are lots of kids who fit into that category, not really knowing for sure what position they're going to play, just tremendous athletes for whom we'll be able to find a position. A lot of schools can't do that. They've got to get a kid they know's a bona fide cornerback or a bona fide center or whatever."

The one exception to that approach, of course, is running back.

"We always try to get a great running back, obviously because of our offensive system. We're always looking for a great I-back or a fullback. Other than those positions, though, I don't think we consciously say we've got to get a player at a particular position, every year," Gillespie said.

Physical ability isn't the only thing recruiters look at, of course. In fact, because of the Prop 48 entrance requirements, it isn't even the most important thing anymore.

Nebraska's first concern is a student-athlete's academic qualifications. They're more important than physical ability because "there's no way you can

Sometimes the

Help is on the way. Or, more specifically, it has arrived.

At least Charlie McBride, defensive coordinator for the Nebraska football team, hopes Junior Monarrez can help. And he'd prefer it be immediately.

The 6-1, 265-pound Monarrez is a two-time junior college All-American middle guard from Cerritos College in Norwalk, Calif. He became a Cornhusker second semester, after being Nebraska's first official recruit this year.

Monarrez signed a letter of intent following his graduation from Cerritos College in late December.

He's Nebraska's kind of guy, according to Cerritos Coach Frank Mazotta. "He's a program player. He loves the weight room. He runs well. And he's really aggressive."

Probably the most important thing, however is that Monarrez plays in the defensive line, an area on which the Cornhuskers have placed a premium this recruiting season. Like the Marine Corps, McBride is looking for a handful of good men to fill some significant vacancies in the defensive front.

All-American tackle Neil Smith, voted the Outstanding Defensive Player in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl game and an almost certain first-round NFL draft pick, is gone. All-Big Eight defensive tackle, and another potential high-round draft pick, Tim Rother is gone. And tackle Lee Jones, a two-year starter, is gone.

Among the prime candidates to replace those players are Ray Valladao, Willie Griffin, Kent Wells and Paul Brungardt.

compensate. If a guy can't qualify, he can't qualify," Gillespie said. "That makes it very difficult."

The Cornhuskers have two scholarship freshmen who sat out the fall and must sit out spring practice because of Proposition 48 linebacker Tim Herman and safety Will Thomas.

Nebraska had hoped both would qualify.

"We fluctuate back and forth about whether we're going to take any (non-qualifiers). I don't think anyone knows what's right," said Gillespie.

For the Cornhuskers to recruit a non-qualifier, he'd have to demonstrate

Best New Guys Are the Old Guys

This year's junior varsity defensive line included several scholarship freshmen, among them middle guard Pat Engelbert and tackles Brungardt, who's been redshirted, Le Andre Anderson, Joe Sims and Brian Brown. In addition, several defensive linemen were red-shirted and sat out last fall.

Still, Nebraska is always looking to the future, and recruiting defensive linemen is a priority this winter.

And although Monarrez was recruited as a middle guard, where the Cornhuskers have Lawrence Pete and Mike Murray returning in the fall, his arrival represents a step in the right direction. A team can never have enough quality linemen, on defense or offense.

Based on his accomplishments at Cerritos College, Monarrez possesses that quality. Playing nine games this season, he was credited with 50 tackles, including five quarterback sacks, according to Mazotta.

"Junior didn't have quite the stats this year (as last), but he was a dramatic influence in California junior college football with the way he handled every center he met," Mazotta said. "The thing you notice most about Junior is, he's such a competitor. In practice, sometimes, we had to hold him out of drills for fear he would hurt somebody. And in games, the tougher it got, the better he played."

The 25-year-old Monarrez, who is married and has two children, knows something about tough, quite a bit, in fact. He grew up in urban Los Angeles and spent three years in the Army after graduating from Belle Garden High

"When he graduated, because of the work ethic of the area he grew up in, he had two options — go to work or go into the service. So he spent three years in the Army, where he worked hard and got his priorities straight. When he came out, he still wanted to go to college and play football. Now, he's kind of the town hero," said Mazotta.

"He's one of the few people (from his neighborhood) to make it big."

His experience in the Army may have contributed to Nebraska's being able to get his name on a letter of intent. Though he's a Californian, Monar-

The 25-year-old Monarrez, who is married and has two children, knows something about tough, quite a bit, in fact.

rez wasn't put off by the state's cold winters. When he was stationed in Germany, he found out about freezing temperatures.

In 1984, he and his wife Mary were the victims of a hit-and-run, automobile accident. It was two days in a hospital bed before Monarrez had recovered sufficiently to understand exactly what had happened. Six months later, "I was back working out and getting in shape, and I've been lifting and working on improving my football skills since," said Monarrez, who has a personal-best bench press of 440

pounds.

Nebraska limits recruiting in junior college to players who demonstrate the maturity and ability to provide immediate help. Safety Tim Jackson and fullback Bryan Carpenter both contributed as second-team players this season, after transferring from Coffeyville, Kan., Community College, a perennial national power where former Cornhusker Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier spent one season.

Like Monarrez, both Jackson and Carpenter were able to enroll in second-semester classes and go through spring practice.

Nebraska's 1986 recruiting class didn't include any junior college transfers on scholarship.

The 1985 class included cornerbacks Cleo Miller and Brian Davis, who's now with the Washington Redskins.

Among Nebraska's other notable junior college transfers in recent years have been defensive tackle Henry Waechter, fullbacks Phil Bates and Doug Dalton, and kickers Billy Todd, Grant Campbell and Scott Livingston, also a product of Cerritos College.

Three years ago, "I wasn't sure I'd go anywhere," Monarrez said.

Now, he's in one of the nation's top college football programs, preparing for spring drills.

"I've followed Nebraska for years and I'm glad to have a chance to be a part of such a great program," said Monarrez. "I hope to be a part of that tradition."

He's "really fired up about Nebraska," Mazotta said. ■

an ability to succeed in college, be a "good kid and, of course, a great player," Gillespie said. "That's what we're looking for if we're going to recruit him, and you don't find a lot with those three qualities."

Not every athlete who fails to meet Prop 48 entrance requirements lacks the academic skills to succeed in college.

"Some ran into problems in their freshman or sophomore years. No one tracked them into the right programs, and they didn't get all the core courses. Sometimes, there's a reason a kid didn't make it," said Gillespie.

In any case, Gillespie has marked Feb. 10 on his calendar. That's the day letters of intent can be signed.

Before the Cornhuskers left for Scottsdale, Ariz., to begin preparing for their Sunkist Fiesta Bowl game against Florida State, they already had oral commitments from four high school players and one junior college transfer for next season.

The high school players included three Nebraskans: Jamie Liewer, a 6-5, 220-pound lineman from Atkinson West Holt; Steve Carmer, a 6-1, 190 pound running back and defensive end from Wahoo; and Kevin Ramaekers, a

6-4, 265-pound lineman from Norfolk Catholic.

The other high school player who announced his intention to become a Cornhusker was Lance Lewis, a 6-0, 200-pound fullback and safety from Scott City, Kan.

The transfer is Junior Monnarrez, a 6-1, 275-pound middle guard, from Cerritos, Calif., Community College.

By Feb. 10, Nebraska hopes to get as many as 17 more such commitments, made official with letters of intent.

Gillespie would like to see them make the same decision he made in 1973. ■



Join The Fight! Help Knockout Childhood Cancer

The children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are fighting back. Their opponent is childhood cancer, and the fight is for life or death.

In 1962, stricken children had less than a 5 percent chance to survive a fight with cancer. But now, thanks to the ongoing research at St. Jude, they are surviving at a rate of almost 60 percent.

But St. Jude and the children cannot win the fight by themselves. They need you in their corner. Please join the fight and maybe one day we can deliver the knockout punch that will end childhood cancer forever.

For more information on how you can help give cancer a "black eye," write to St. Jude, 505 N. Parkway, Memphis, TN 38105, or call 1-800-238-9100.



St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital
Danny Thomas, Founder

1987

Nebraska Cornhuskers



Front row: (left to right) Dave Gillespie, Dan Young, George Darlington, Frank Solich, Milt Tenopir, John Melton, Ron Brown, Tom Osborne, Jack Pierce, Tony Samuel, Charlie McBride.

Second row: Ray, Coleman, Von Sheppard, Kurt McCallum, Tim Jackson, Brian Washington, Keith Jones, McCathorn Clayton, Lorenzo Hicks, Steve Taylor, Charles Fryar, Jeff Tomjack.

Third row: Clete Blakeman, Craig Schnitzler, Jerry Dunlap, Wendell Wooten, Chris Drennan, Jon Crippen, John Richman, Morgan Gregory, Terry Rodgers, Richard Bell, Mark Blazek.

Fourth row: Dave Clare, Sam Schmidt, Marvin Sanders, Cartier Walker, Bryan Carpenter, Jamie Worden, Ken Clark, Dana Brinson, Tyreese Knox, Brian Miller, Bob Hansen, Doug Welniak.

Fifth row: Steve Forch, Dave Cheloha, Jon Kelley, Todd Millikan, Gregg Barrios, Doug Dalton, John Kroeker, LeRoy Etienne, Micah Heibel, Chris Caliendo.

Sixth row: Brad Ferguson, Roger Fitzke, Mark Antonetti, Mark O'Gara, Randall Jobman, Steve Stanard, Keven Lightner, R.G. Arneson, Jeff Anderson, John McCormick, Bob Sledge, John Nichols, John Roschal.

Seventh row: Andy Keeler, Kurt Skradis, John Strasheim, Jake Young, Bill Bobbora, Corey Bill Hudson, Brad Rother, Derrick Green, Mike Murray, Ray Valladao, John Nelson, Tim Rother, Jeff Jamrog, Chip Bahe.

Eighth: Kurt Broer, Hendley Hawkins, Tim McCoy, Willie Griffin,

Monte Kratzenstein, Keith Neubert, Tom Banderas, Rod Smith, Broderick Thomas, Harlan Opie, Kent Wells, Sean Putnam, Jon Marco.

Ninth row: Scot Olsen, Brian Harchelroad, Mike Preston, Corey Grobe, Paul Brungardt, Lawrence Pete, Tony Palmer, Lee Jones, Neil Smith, Shane Lair, Brian Edgren, Grant Rice, Terry Eyman.

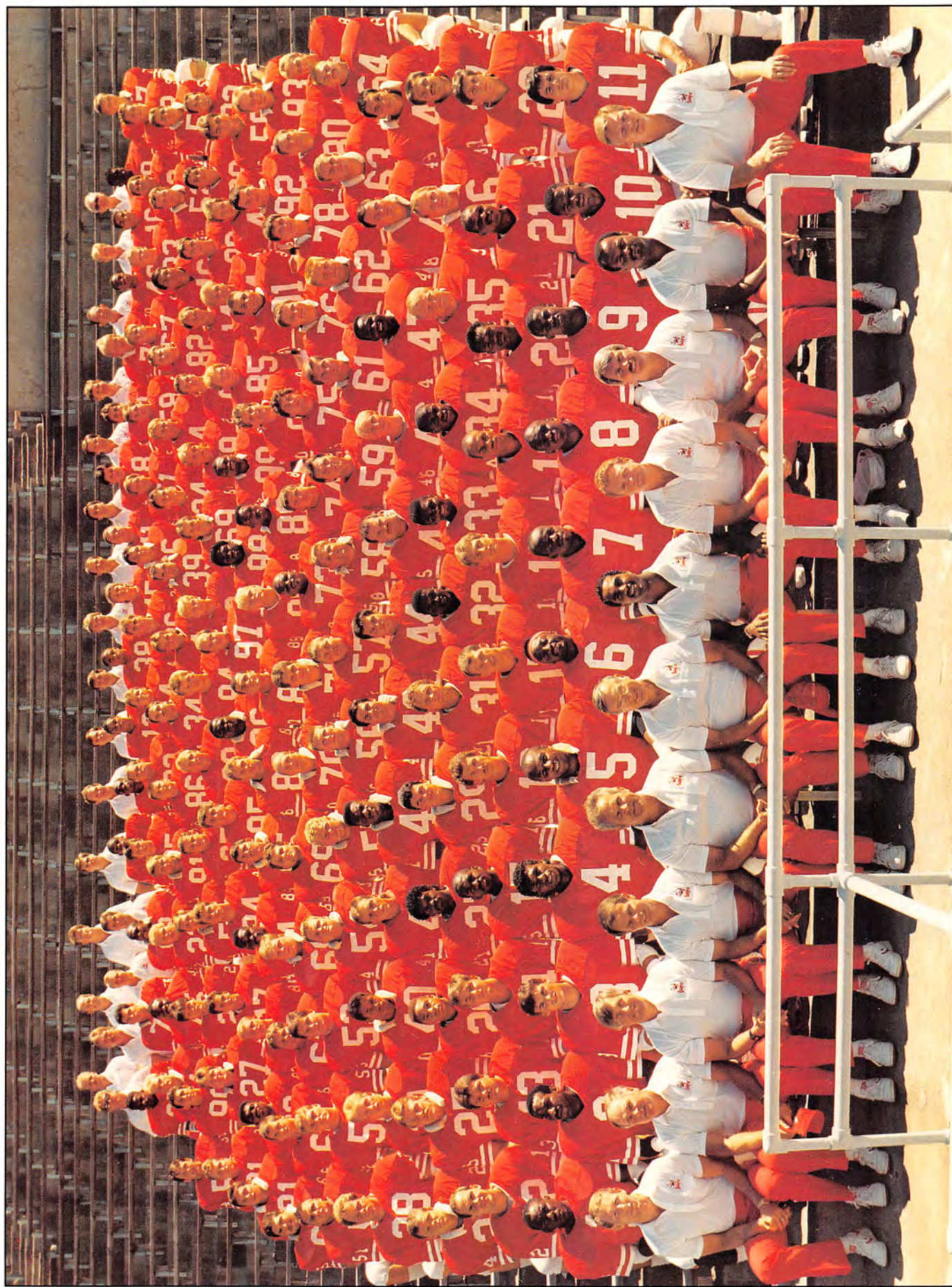
Tenth row: Kurt Husley, John Perlstein, Tom Janky, Eric Kiehn, John Richman, Dan Svelha, Kevin Miller, Todd Bennett, Andrew Hansen, Kevin Hinton, Greg Galock, Scott Beckler, Lance Bobolz, Brad Devall, Kevin Avey.

Eleventh row: Jim Kerwin, Pat Tyrance, Dave Petz, Jim Musil, Corey Hedrick, Robert Lveck, Scott Vampola, Mark Hagge, Steve Schneider, Rick Wendland, Keith Garich, Bob Hansen, Steve Engstrom, Eric Olsen.

Twelfth row: Reggie Cooper, Joe D'lesio, Kenny Walker, Scott Kurtz, John Moore, Pete Buchanan, Steve Keast, Mike Griffin, Jim Wanek, John Lankas, Jeff Wallin, Matt Jewett, Dan Lohmeier.

Thirteenth row: Tony Davis, Barney Cotton, Shane Thorell, Bill Kinney, Tony Avant, Mickey Joseph, Nate Turner, Randy Williams, Jerry Dunlap, Jeff Miller, Doug Glaser, Jay Scheel, Jeff Long, Tahawn Lewis, Jon Crippen, Mike Croel, Tom Punt.

Fourteenth row: Dan Casterline, George Verplank, Dan Groskurth, Jack Noel, Rob Barrie, Glen Abbott, Walt Johnson, Gale Clement, Jack Nickolite, Randy Gobel, Boyd Epley, Jerry Webber, George Sullivan, Mike Arthur, Duke LaRue. ■



Still Reaching for the Brass Ring

By Mark Owens



Eric Johnson's double-double: best friend Duane Martin and former high school coach Rock Eisenberg.

Eric Johnson has a smile and a half. It's the kind of smile, one of those real big ones, that confronts you and forces you to like him. It's an easy smile. It's like a sneeze. If you're in the same room with it, there's some kind of physiological domino theory that dictates that others will invariably smile too. A law of nature. I sneeze, you sneeze. You sneeze, I sneeze. It's the same with the smile.

Bless you.

Well, on this particular night a couple of years ago, Johnson wasn't smiling. He was getting off a Brooklyn subway with this guy, Duane Martin, after doing whatever super-tight friends do in Gotham City, and — wham — darned if they don't see the favorite pastime of inner-city scum. You know, a mugging. Which was no big deal in a way because these guys are big-city veterans, and they've seen it all. So, this woman is putting up a good fight while some Bozo harrasses her. The jerk is getting Johnson and North pretty steamed, and then they flip when they notice a monumental display of jackassery right under their noses — the guy has an audience of lunkheads. People are just standing around in a circle, watching and doing nothing. Zero. Zip. Johnson and North are not the Zero-Zip kind. They counterattack. The mugger's caught, the woman's all right and her handbag's where it should be.

Point guard Eric Johnson is having a solid impact on Nebraska basketball, but the best may be yet to come.

Johnson's is not, however.

He carries a bag, too, for such things as driver's license, keys, wallet, jewelry. Make that *carried* — as in past tense. Johnson lost the bag during the scuffle and with it vanished a \$150 gold necklace with his name on it. Gone forever.

You'd think there'd be a lesson there for Johnson to learn: do unto nobody, and nobody will do unto you. But that's not the way it goes with him. Back to that smile again, and it's clear to see it's also his affliction. Call it Cheshire Cat Disease. It's more than a smile, it's Johnson's mindset, and he'll tell you right here and now that he'd trounce that mugger all over again even if it meant kissing his gold good-bye.

The smile simply will not learn.

That was then, though, and Eric Johnson does his trouncing and smiling for the Nebraska Cornhusker basketball team these days, and that sure makes a lot of sense for a Brooklyn kid to be shooting hoops in Johnny Carson's home state, doesn't it? Well, it sort of does, but more on that later. Johnson's the starting point guard for Coach Danny Nee, who knows a thing or two about Brooklyn, and the trouncing at hand for this 6-foot-2 junior involves nice, normal fellas who play basketball for teams that Nebraska wants to beat. This is no small feat. Fundamentally sound, steady and superbly talented, Johnson is a key for Nee. This year's version of Nebraska basketball is all right, fighting like mad

to stay above .500, but keeping that 14-year streak of winning records could be tougher than flogging the previously mentioned Brooklyn mugger.

Johnson must fight again for that to happen. Oh sure, he's not what you call the greatest pure shooter of all time. But he plays defense that stings. He's already got more steals this season than that mugger ever dreamed of. Long arms, baby, long arms. They'll do it every time. Nee sees Johnson's role on this year's against-all-odds team as that of the complete player: "The perfect game for Eric is the triple double — 12 or 13 points, 10 or so rebounds and 10 or 11 assists. And he has the athletic gift to do it. He doesn't need to score 20 or 30 points to help our team. We need all of him, in all areas of the game." And all of him they've got. Johnson pretty much leads the team in minutes played, and even though he doesn't hit a trip-deuce every night, the potential is always there. In a year when Nebraska seems to need stability, Johnson's always there, and the anticipation is always there that he will explode.

Speaking of blowups, it's a wonder that Johnson hasn't joined the local police bomb squad, what with his experience with defusing explosive situations. For him to even be playing at Nebraska and shooting for that triple-double perfect game every night is a huge tribute to that easy smile and the history behind it.

He was only 12 years old, and a

young Eric Johnson walked down a lonely Brooklyn sidewalk toward his home and saw all he needed to know in Vinnie's eyes. His older brother was telling Eric something just with his eyes, and Eric knew instinctively that it was over, that there really wasn't any need to go inside the house, and that the suffering had stopped, and it was just the same that his heart should be broken on a Brooklyn sidewalk as inside. The illness had been too long, and their mother died in the home, and Eric went for a long, long walk.

If he couldn't have her in body, at least Eric could hold on to his mother in spirit and soul. Nine years later and half a continent away, the influence is still there.

"It's hard to talk about her," Johnson says with an out-of-place and uneasy laugh. This is not fun. "I think about her a lot. She left me with a lot of things like how important it is to be honest and considerate and nice to people. To go by what you feel in your heart."

On the quiet side to begin with, Johnson absorbed the tragedy with a hush, and even his best friend Martin needed what seemed like years to build a trust and bond.

"Eric doesn't mess around," says Martin, "when it comes to family stuff. He lays it right on the line, and I don't know how many times he's said, 'Your mom is it, man, you've got to take care of your mom.' She was a good lady. He comes from a good family."

She raised the kind of kid who *borrow*s money. Give him \$20, and he gives you \$20 back. He may be a street-wise Brooklyn kid, but he plays on a two-way street. You remember his birthday and there'll be a card in the mailbox on yours. Do him a favor, and he'll return it. Smile, and he'll smile back.

Trouble is, some people say Eric Johnson may actually be too nice when it comes to basketball. How can this be? Just look at brother Vinnie, now a guard with the Detroit Pistons.

Someone once said Vinnie was the kind of guy who would knock you down, step on your head and cut your heart out. A mean player on the basketball court, but off the court... a prince of a guy. Eric, they say, will knock you down then pick you up.

Vinnie is driven.

Vinnie's made it in the NBA. He's been playing eight years, always scoring in double figures, either starting a lot or getting a lot of minutes. Vinnie's got the money — the kind that Eric calls "fantastic" even though he thinks his brother's got a job worth doing for free. Vinnie's a streak shooter, marvelously talented and driven. Both Johnsons are about the same size (6-2ish and bulky). "It's like playing a pickup game," explains Martin, "with two elephants." And Vinnie will bite your head off.

But he'd rather spoil his little brother. Says Vinnie: "Eric's a good kid, a good player. I keep telling him that I want to see him in the NBA. I want to play against him. And he's smart, too. Eric did great at reading and math at FDR. Me, I had trouble with geography; I couldn't seem to locate my classrooms. But not Eric. I stay after him all the time about getting his education, and he's going to make it. I think Eric definitely has the potential to play pro ball, and one of these days it's going to fall together for him. My kid brother's going to do all right."

They may be close, and Eric may look up to his brother, but they are also different. Vinnie must have gotten the mean genes while Eric got the smile.

But Nebraska's promising point guard also got a potful of talent out of the deal, too. As a high school senior at Roosevelt High School, he was named the outstanding player in New York City. He was rated just a notch behind Shelton Jones of Long Island (and now a star forward for St. John) as the

best player in the state. Johnson averaged over 30 points per game that year. He was a hot prospect.

Still, Johnson would slip between different levels of greatness and on-the-court dominance. Former FDR Coach Rock Eisenberg saw him make those leaps from mere stardom to stratospheric pre-eminence. Against Boys High, the biggest and baddest basketball factory in New York City, FDR in general and Johnson in particular were struggling. In a packed gym, Eisenberg found a quiet moment before a free throw to speak from the soul. "Hey, Eric," he called out sweetly in his Brooklyn accent to his star half-way across the court before adding some spice to his instructions, "why

"Eric's a good kid, a good player. I keep telling him that I want to see him in the NBA, I want to play against him." — Vinnie Johnson.

don't you put on a —ing dress, because you're playing like a girl!"

Rock recalls the echo throughout the gym: "There's not a sound in the whole place but my own voice, and then Eric turns to me, and his eyes were like lasers. If looks could kill, I'm a dead man right now. So what does he do? Eric scores 40 points, gets 20 rebounds and 10 assists. And this is after a two-point first quarter. Unconventional, but it worked.

"You see, the fire in Eric is set off when there's an appeal to his pride. At FDR, I wanted him to be our star. We needed him to be our star. But there's also a part of Eric that wants to make his teammates look good. He really, truly wants to be a complete player because Vinnie has told him that's the best way to make it to the NBA. And I agree. But in our case at FDR, we needed Eric to stick it in the hole, and I'm sure he could do that at Nebraska if Coach Nee needed him to. But it's just not needed there now."

What Rock needed (they call him Rock because he grew up as the tough-

est kid on his block to tackle) was the son he never had, and the duo of Johnson and Martin easily fit the bill. Together, they formed a mutual-admiration society. "Let me give you an example about what kind of kids you have in Eric and Duane," Rock rejoices. "A couple of years ago, they're back in town for the summer and they want to go out into Manhattan to do some things that night, but that would mean they would be a long way from home, and that didn't settle so good with the families. So, I say to stay over at my apartment in Manhattan cause I'm out that night, and they can have my keys. And that's all right with everybody. Next day, I come home, the guys are long gone and what do I see? The dishes have been washed, the floor's swept, there's a thank you note and — get this — a bottle of champagne."

Says Johnson: "Rock would have done the same for us."

Another gift from Rock to Johnson, North and his other FDR players was a solid background in fundamental basketball and citizenship. FDR was well-known under Eisenberg as a class act among New York's high school powers. Players dressed up on game day. They played hard, but played fair. They practiced just as hard. Dean Smith's North Carolina Tar Heel program served as Eisenberg's model.

After that high school career, Eric wanted to do the same thing for Baylor that Vinnie did. Vinnie had been an All-American guard and had set almost all the school scoring records.

"I just wanted to follow Vinnie," he says.

After what came down at Baylor, nobody could fault Eric for wondering why bad things happen to good people.

It started out just fine.

Eric was off to Texas to play for Jim Haller, Vinnie's coach. Haller was easy to spot: upbeat, bubbly, excited to be alive and the kind of guy who would do anything for a friend. Plus, he coached a fast-break, run-and-shoot style that reflected his personality. Eric started quite a bit as a freshman, averaged about nine points a game and was "really looking forward to the next couple of years," but he had no idea what was about to happen so that made good sense.

Mistakes in judgment had been made, and the NCAA was about to mete out some punishment. Charges came up that Haller, who always en-

joyed and cared for his players, was indeed the kind of man who really would do anything for his friends. But when your players are your friends, the NCAA gets nervous. A lot of people at Baylor got nervous, too, and the fun was gone. Still, school president Herbert Reynolds stood by Haller during the tempestuous public relations storm that seemed to blow harder over the small Baptist school than it would almost anywhere else. The Prez he stood as long as he could.

Finally, the NCAA said that rules had been broken — nothing like buying players, but more like helping out kids. A plane ticket here or there to go home, money to fix a car, extra things that average students didn't get. Some people in the Texas sports media called it a witch hunt. Rumors spread that Haller had been set up. Supporters who were bitter about the NCAA's vengeance and severe two-year probation, guessed that Haller's only crime was that he cared for his players too much. But that was enough.

Eric said upfront that he took a

plane ticket home. Others lied. It didn't help though, and a handful of Baylor Bears, including Johnson, would have to sit out eight games the next season.

Haller came forward to resign with four games left in the 1984-85 season. "I think back and have very fond memories of that team and those five freshmen we had, Eric being one of them," Haller says. "I've known Eric even since he was a youngster, back when I was recruiting Vinnie out of Brooklyn. I'll always remember that smile. Everything looked so good for him when he got to Baylor. Our freshman class that year was rated as one of the Top 10 in the country. He arrived on campus as a far more fundamentally sound player than Vinnie was at the same stage. Eric has absolutely great anticipation. That would explain why he's getting so many steals this year, which doesn't surprise me because he was always a good defensive player, even better than Vinnie. Then again, Vinnie was the best game-day player I ever saw.

"That year, Eric played his best games against the best teams. Missouri was ranked No. 4 I believe and they were supposed to win the Big Eight. Eric plays very well and we win by 15. SMU was No. 5 in the nation, and we beat them by five with Eric getting 24 points. And all this was with the NCAA cloud hanging over us. I resigned in late February but finished out the season, and even in our last game of the year, we were ahead of Texas Tech by one at the half, but we lost by seven. The kids were still playing their hearts out.

"No, I'm sorry, I really don't remember what I said to them that last game."

Johnson was not alone. North kept in touch all the time because he played in a nearby community college, and Rock made several trips to Waco, accompanied by a sports litigation attorney, to fight through the mess.

"Things got wild," says Johnson. "Things got out of control. We thought as players that we were being made an example for other schools to see. It really had an effect on people's lives.

ATTENTION HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED COLLECTORS!

An exclusive collection of HUSKER HISTORY can be yours...

...Take advantage of our "BACK ISSUE BONANZA OFFER!"

Normally back issues of HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED sell for \$4.00 each. But with this offer, you can get over 30 issues in one package for a total cost of only \$49.95. You'll receive some of the very first issues of HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED ever published, from 1981 forward. Plus, we'll also include "Devaney and Friends," the book personally written by Devaney about his life in college football — truly a collector's item.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, fill out the order form below and enclose payment. This "BACK ISSUE BONANZA" package is ready to be shipped immediately upon receipt of your order. Quantities are limited and orders will be filled on a first received, first-filled basis.

Maybe you have a friend or relative who's a HUSKER fanatic. If so, this is the perfect gift...An exclusive collection of HUSKER HISTORY, unavailable from any other source, which includes stories on the stars before they were stars, statistics, the big games and countless color photos which can only be found in HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED. Order your "BACK ISSUE BONANZA" package today.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED BACK ISSUE BONANZA PACKAGE

Please send me _____ BACK ISSUE BONANZA Packages. I understand I'll receive at least 30 back issues along with a FREE copy of "Devaney and Friends" with each \$49.95 order. My method of payment is indicated below.

☐ Check or Money Order

☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card No./Exp. Date: _____

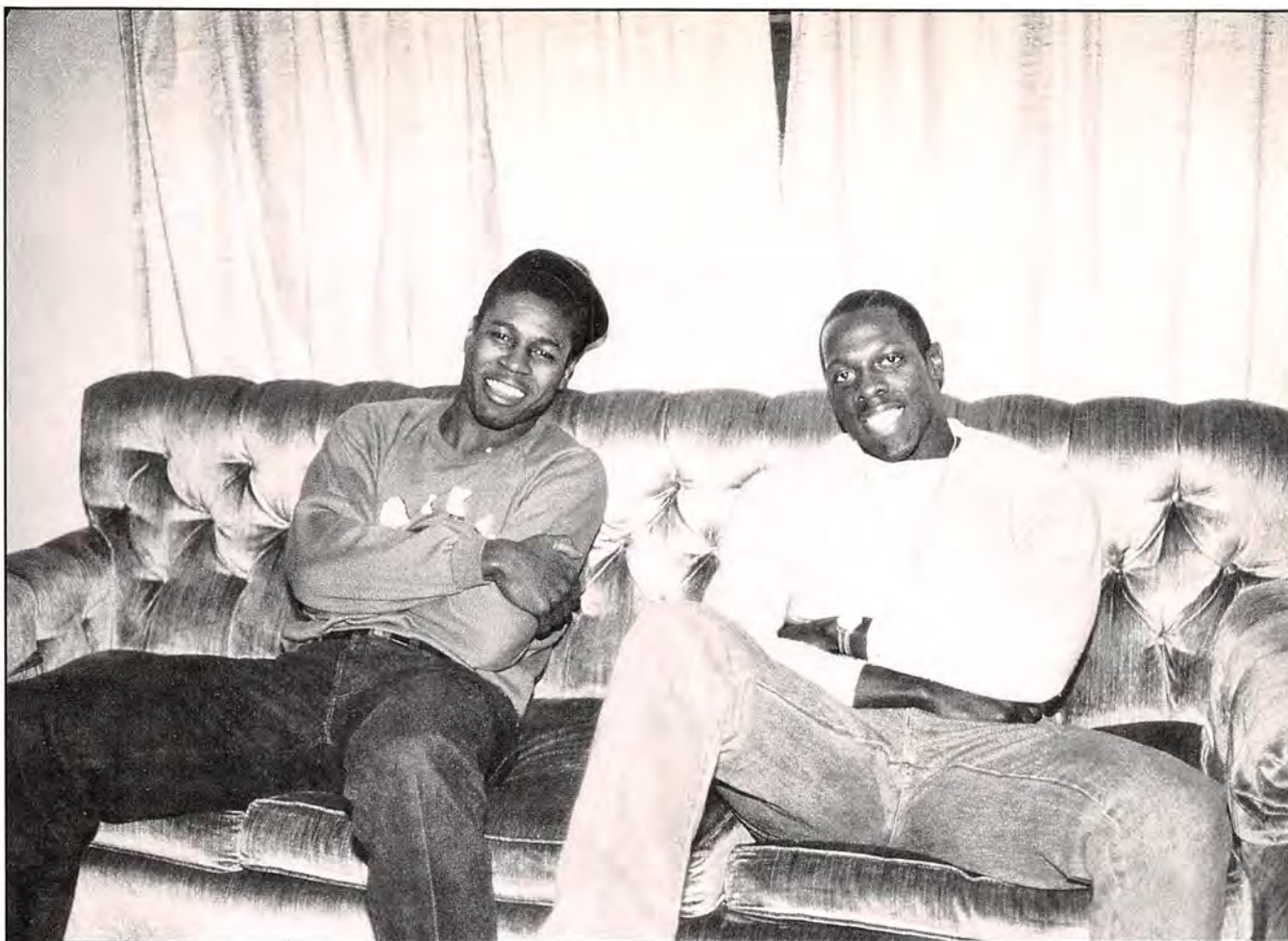
SHIP TO (NAME): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE & ZIP _____

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501



Eric Johnson (right) and roommate Derrick Vick battle to see who has the biggest smile on the NU basketball team.

It wasn't a good situation."

Johnson's momentum was stopped. For the 1985-86 season, new coach Gene Iba brought in a whole new approach to basketball — controlled tempo, hard-lined discipline and an especially hard-to-digest mentality that the college basketball experience was not that different from a nine-to-five job.

A stunned Johnson would give Baylor one more year, then decided to transfer even though he was again a part-time starter, averaging just under 10 points a game. The Baylor connection broke up. Haller was enthusiastically absorbed back into the private sector of Waco, where he now serves as a bank executive and still hosts a daily radio program on Southwest Conference sports. Other players left Baylor, too, and it was time for Eric to break away from Vinnie's footsteps, and that's where this other Brooklyn guy comes into the picture.

"Eric and I went to one of Coach

Nee's basketball camps in Ohio along with some other guys from our high school team, and when he got us with that Green Beret stare, I was about scared to death of him," explains Martin. "Remember, we were just young guys at the time. So, anyway, he turns out to be an all right guy. You can trust him."

In fact, Johnson thought awfully highly of Nee right out of high school, but chose Baylor instead because of the Vinnie-factor and because the state of Ohio just didn't grab him. Having learned some serious lessons about people and fairness from his Baylor experience, Johnson was ready to clean the slate and get back to some fun basketball. When Nee came to Nebraska in the spring of 1986, the former New York City player of the year followed.

And he brought his smile with him.

"I'm just happy to be here and playing and helping the team," says the speech communications major. "I don't

care how bad I play just so long as the team wins. I'm really looking forward to next year, too."

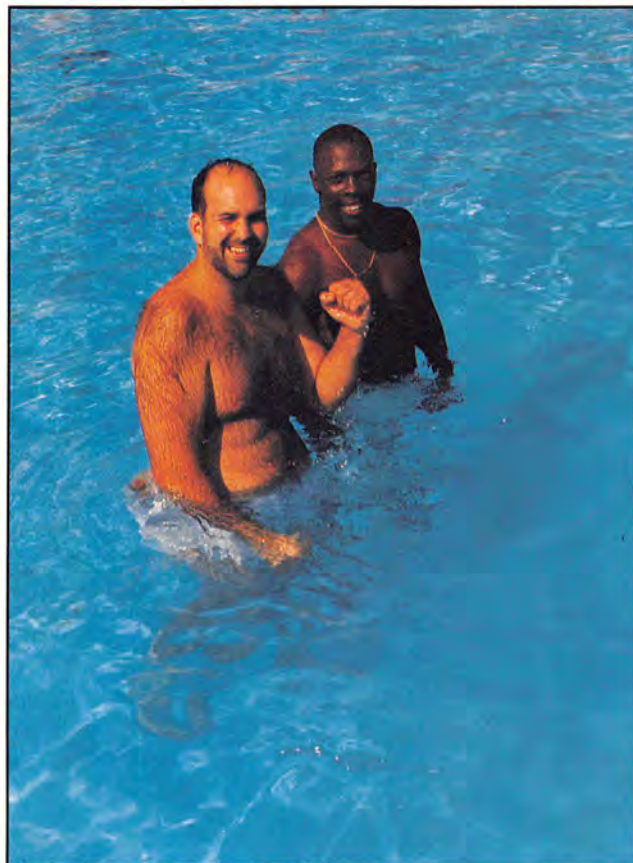
But first things first. For Nebraska to make another run at the post-season tournament action this season, Johnson's got to have more pick-pocket games like the one against Villanova where he undressed high-scoring Doug West. The steals, the five-second calls, the traveling calls. Go east, young West. NU may well surpass respectability if Johnson produces like he did against Brooklyn College back in December, what with those 13 points, five steals, three assists and a trio of rebounds.

The potential is almost limitless. But, says Nee, "Eric's still reaching for the brass ring."

He's still a notch below where he needs to be to make the NBA real.

But who's to say the easy-going Johnson really, deep down inside, needs the NBA. He's got his friends. And they've got his smile. ■

With Eric Johnson by his side, Rock could never sink.



Financial services at your fingertips.

When it comes to financial goals, Ameritas Investment Corp has your best interest at heart. We take the time to join with you in planning your financial future. Our experience and insight can help you meet your investment goals. And goal-tending is something we don't mind being called for.

When you need a stockbroker, talk to Ameritas Investment Corp.

Greentree Court
210 Gateway
Lincoln, NE 68505
(402) 466-4565
11213 Davenport
Suite 201
Omaha, NE 68154
(402) 330-6710



SIPC

Member National Association of Securities Dealers

Ask Tom Osborne



Q: I read where the University of Arkansas, a very fine football program, is having some trouble this year, and evidently some people there feel there should be changes in the assistant coaching staff. Here at Nebraska, we have a very stable staff that seems to work well together for our program. What are your feelings about the pros and cons of staff turnover? **Chuck Gladden, San Jose, Calif.**

A: "I think one of the strengths of our program has been very little staff turnover here. I think that losing three or so coaches a year, which a lot of places do, hurts you badly in recruiting, first and foremost. Not only does it take one of your coaches out of his assigned recruiting area, but many times the whole recruiting season is over by the time you replace him. We were very lucky last year to get Ron Brown in as quickly as we did. Also, you kind of have to educate the coaches when you get a new one in. You have to teach him

all about your system and playbook, and it usually takes a year for him to really get broken in. Plus, during that time he's getting used to the players, and sometimes it's hard learning their names, much less finding out their strengths and weaknesses. Bringing in new assistants is just one more adjustment for the current staff and players that can slow you down. So, it's very good to be able to retain coaches."

Q: From what you've heard from your players, coaches and from looking at film, can you come up with an all-opponent team from this season? It seems like we've faced more All-Americans and all-stars than I can ever remember. Who would you say were the best individual players that we've faced this year? **Stacy Saddlemore, Beatrice, Neb.**

A: "That's hard to say, but some of the best individual players were Cornell Lake, a defensive end, from UCLA. I thought Ken Norton was a very fine linebacker. Of course, UCLA had Troy Aikman, who is an outstanding quarterback, plus Gaston Green and Mel Farr were fine running backs. Overall, I felt UCLA was a great football team, and they got even better as the season went on. I think the offensive lineman, Randall McDaniel, at Arizona State was a great player, as was their defensive tackle Shawn Patterson. Sterling Sharpe for South Carolina would qualify as a great player. Even though he didn't get a lot of publicity, South Carolina's running back, Harold Green, was a very fine player I thought. Of course, they had a lot of speed on defense, and you could just about pick any one of those players. Oklahoma had a lot of great players. David Vickers, Rickey Dixon, their two ends, some of their offensive linemen, and Keith Jackson, of course. Mike Gundy, Hart Lee Dykes and Thurman Thomas of Oklahoma State were certainly great players. Erik McMillan for Missouri was an outstanding defensive back. And Barry Helton of Colorado was a great player. So, we really have come up against a lot of great players this year, and I think that's a good indication of how tough our overall schedule was."

Q: Have you made a decision yet about whether or not the Utah State game will be moved ahead of UCLA again? If we do that, it will make a real early season opener. And, also, what do you think of Utah State? They finished 5-6 and tied for second in their conference. I guess they weren't so bad after all. **Dave Goodstein, Council Bluffs, Iowa**

A: "Yes, we would like to look at moving the Utah State game or Nevada-Las Vegas game. I think the schedule changes we made this year turned out fairly well for us, and it looks like UCLA will have another very fine team when we play them at their place. So, again, it will be important to be well prepared for them. And, yes, Utah State did come along and play well. Our coaching staff felt that might happen because we thought they were a much improved football team. I was very pleased for them — they made a lot of progress throughout the season."

Q: Coach, I am personally thrilled that we played in the Fiesta Bowl, and I wouldn't want to have anything to do with Miami because of their barbaric behavior. We're still a great team, and we don't need to play a bunch of hooligans to prove it. I would like to hear your thoughts on teams like Maryland and South Carolina choosing not to ever play Miami again. **Darrell Smitherson, York, Neb.**

A: "I really don't know anything about the action taken by Maryland and South Carolina, so, I can't comment on why they made those decisions. And, frankly, I don't feel comfortable talking about the character of another coach's football team. I guess Miami has had some problems in the past, and the media has publicized those problems. But I've read that Jimmy Johnson has taken steps to correct whatever problems there might have been, and there doesn't seem to be as much bad publicity concerning the Miami football program this year as there has been in the past."

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■



LEE'S FORD-MERCURY

NEW AND USED CARS & TRUCKS
FULL PARTS & SERVICE
RENT-A-CAR

"It Pays To Drive To Ashland"

1602 SILVER STREET, ASHLAND, NE

789-7155 • LINCOLN

342-6767 • OMAHA

944-3367 • ASHLAND



ASHLAND STATE BANK

COMPLETE MODERN BANKING FACILITIES
CHECKING & SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES • ALL TYPES OF LOANS
VISA & MASTERCARD • SAVINGS CERTIFICATES
DRIVE-IN BANKING

"You Really Rate At Ashland State"

2433 SILVER STREET, ASHLAND, NE

944-2111 • ASHLAND

341-5123 • OMAHA



LEE SAPP LEASING

LEASING PLANS TAILORED TO FIT YOUR NEEDS
DAY — WEEK — MONTH — LONG TERM

9902 SOUTH 148th STREET

OMAHA, NE 68138

402/895-3113



LEE SAPP INSURANCE

COMPLETE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
HOME — AUTO — BUSINESS — LIFE — HEALTH

9904 SOUTH 148th STREET

OMAHA, NE 68138

402/895-0990



LEE SAPP COMPUTER SERVICES & SALES

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
COMPUTER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT SALES

9902 SOUTH 148th

OMAHA, NE 68138

402/895-3113



Memorex

A Burroughs Company

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL

LOCAL, OUT OF TOWN &
WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS
RENT-A-CAR AND TRUCK OF NEBRASKA, INC.

907 E. LOCUST
CARTER LAKE, IOWA 51510
AIRPORT — 712/347-6008
WEST OMAHA — 402/895-3113





Perry J. Strombeck
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



Milan R. Franzen
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



R.W. "Dick" Bailey, CLU
Grand Island
(308) 382-0385



Lyle W. Japp, CLU, ChFC
Omaha
(402) 496-6400



Dennis R. Roper
Kearney
(308) 237-9600



John R. Chittick
CLU, ChFC
Falls City: (402) 245-5939



Lee Thiessen
Henderson
(402) 723-4400



Michel L. Rinehart
Fairbury
(402) 729-3339



Raymond R. Solee
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



M. Lee Hunefeld
Omaha
(402) 496-6400



Ron Rapp, CLU, RHU
South Sioux City
(402) 494-3003



Phyllis J. Andreasen
Oakland
(402) 685-6282



Stan A. Andreasen
Oakland
(402) 685-6282



Stefan G. Jenkins
CLU, ChFC
Omaha: (402) 496-6400



Chris B. Krause
CLU, ChFC
Valley: (402) 359-2575



Joe Vlock, CLU, ChFC
Omaha
(402) 496-6400



Karl L. Kollmorgen
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



Michael F. Munter
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



Steve W. Bobst
Hastings
(402) 462-8366



Brad D. Tomek
Omaha
(402) 496-6400



David M. LeGrand
Nebraska City
(402) 873-7477



Anne-Marie Bobst
Hastings
(402) 462-8366



Barbara L. Kreifels
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



Chris M. Wadhams
Lincoln
(402) 488-2632



Hal D. Haeker
Alma
(308) 928-2900



Virgil C. Wadhams
Lincoln
(402) 488-9092



Darryl B. Hunter
Lincoln
(402) 476-8575



Kermit R. Erickson
Arcadia
(308) 789-6507

To make sure that you and your family reach your financial goals, let us help you draw up a winning game plan. A game plan that will assure your family's financial security, protect you against the high cost of illness, and build funds — tax sheltered — for a more comfortable retirement.

Call today. Helping you become a financial winner is our full-time career.

These are some of the many New York Life Agents in this area — all good people to know.

Lincoln General Office:

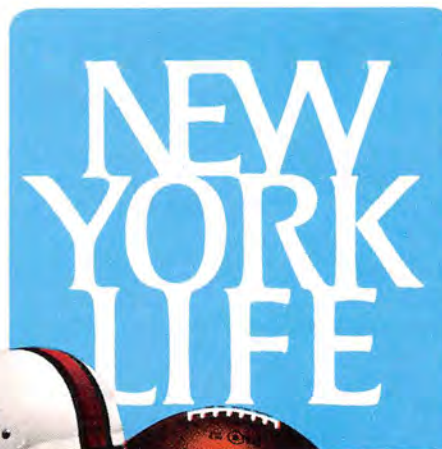
James W. Rasmussen, RHU, General Manager
Cindy Heinrich, Office Manager
Donald Hunter, Sales Manager
Scott Bowhay, Sales Manager
Robert Lattimer, Training Supervisor
1506 First National Bank Building
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 476-8575

Nebraska General Office:

Jerry Roberts, General Manager
Glenn E. Bartley, Jr., CLU, Office Manager
Gary Phillips, Sales Manager
Lee Arellano, Sales Manager
Dave Skutnik, Sales Manager
Bill Stott, Sales Manager
James H. Moore, CLU, ChFC, Training Manager
Phillip L. Bowers, CLU, ChFC, Training Supervisor
11506 Nicholas, Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154
(402) 496-6400

Sioux City General Office:

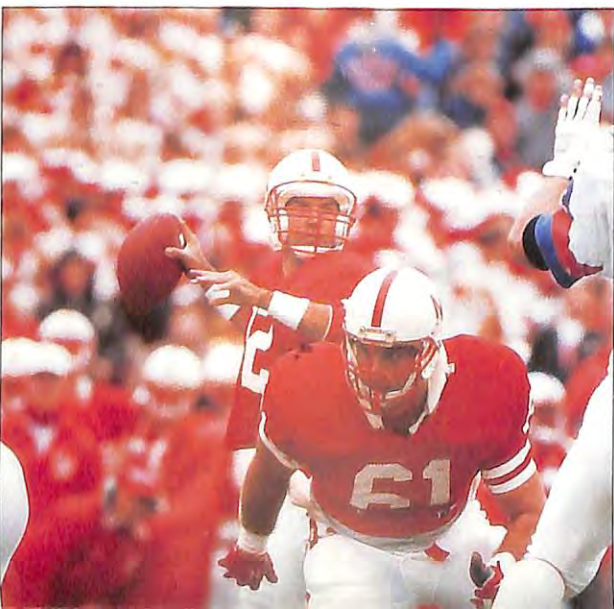
Mel Adema, General Manager
George W. Molesworth, CLU, Office Manager
Ken Wilson, Sales Manager
Richard Peschan, Sales Manager
Fred Hahne, CLU, Sales Manager
Don Means, Training Manager
Larry Lindstrom, Training Supervisor
600 Fourth Street, Suite 900
Sioux City, Iowa 51101
(712) 279-8800



New York Life. For all of your life.

Life, Health, Disability Income, Group Insurance, Annuities, Pension Plans.

Huskers Illustrated



1 9 8 8

J A N U A R Y

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

F E B R U A R Y

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

M A R C H

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

A P R I L

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

M A Y

J U L Y

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

A U G U S T

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

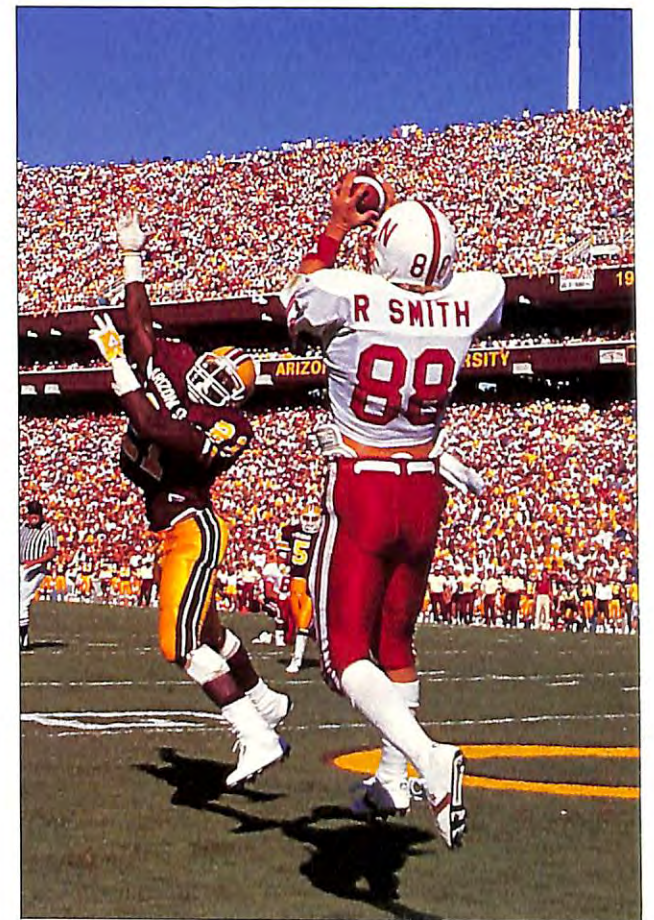
S E P T E M B E R

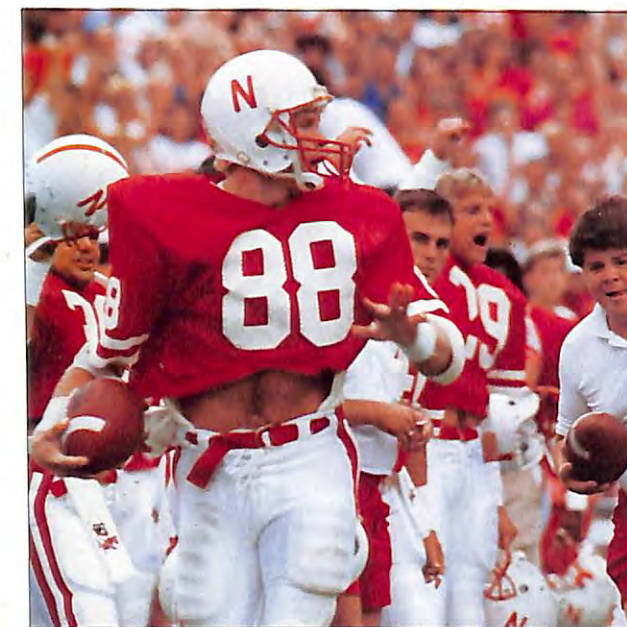
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

O C T O B E R

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

N O V E M B E R





S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

J	U	N	E			
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

1988 Nebraska Cornhusker Football

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Sept. 10	UCLA at Pasadena	___
Sept. 17	Utah State at Lincoln	___
Sept. 24	Arizona State at Lincoln	___
Oct. 1	Nevada-Las Vegas at Lincoln	___
Oct. 8	Kansas at Lawrence	___
Oct. 15	Oklahoma State at Lincoln	___
Oct. 22	Kansas State at Manhattan	___
Oct. 29	Missouri at Lincoln	___
Nov. 5	Iowa State at Ames	___
Nov. 12	Colorado at Lincoln	___
Nov. 19	Oklahoma at Norman	___

(NOTE: Schedule subject to change by the University of Nebraska.)

